

RECREATION

Formerly THE PLAYGROUND

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INTERNATIONAL RECREATION

The Youth Movement in Germany

By Ben Solomon

Leisure Time Activities in Great Britain

Los Angeles— The Host of the International Recreation Congress

By John C. Porter

Friendships International

By Dorothy Reed

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The World at Play

PLAY is a universal language. In the kingdom, or republic if you will, of play there are no boundaries except those that separate the living from the dead; those who still play from those who do not.

In every country play and recreation will have a vital part in shaping the new culture, the new art, the new life of man.

In all lands leisure increases—even though the rate of increase is greater in some countries than in others. Art, music, drama, sport, adventure are central to leisure. Play and recreation cannot lightly be tossed aside by those who care what kind of world their children's children shall live in.

As we understand one another's play and recreation; as we share more fully knowledge of what we really want to do when we are under no compulsion; as we know how we are alike and how we are different in our deepest desires, what we really are when we are ourselves, —then we shall be better able to live together in a world that each year is made smaller by radio and airships. Progress lies not in making each nation's play alike, but in giving opportunity for all individuals, groups and nations from out of all the infinite possibilities of growth and development to become what will give the most permanent and enduring satisfaction.

The play tradition of the United States owes much to Germany, to England, and to other countries—yet after all it is essentially American. In the field of play and recreation there must never be tariff walls.

HOWARD BRAUCHER.

"The pioneering spirit is leading us in the recreation movement to the discovery of a vast continent of human values hitherto unsuspected, richer treasures, richer in real values than all the geographical continents of the world put together."

L. P. Jacks, LL.D.

The World at Play



Courtesy of "Leisure and Education in Germany"

"German youth, as perhaps the youth of no other people, longs to wander through its native land. The wanderings of young apprentices in the golden age of guild handicraft, the journeys of the Turnvater Jahn and his students, the travels of the youth of today differentiate themselves only in form, not at all in spirit. The essence of all wandering pilgrimages of German youth has remained the same: the urge to grasp the spaces that lie far and near, to get the feel of the landscape, of Nature, of the folk in their manifold forms of life."—Hermann Maass in "Leisure and Education in Germany."

The Youth Movement in Germany

By Ben Solomon
Editor, *Camp Life*

A study of one of today's
most significant movements.

THE term "Youth Movement" is quite an indefinite, quite a complex thing. German writers like to call it "a philosophy of natural life." It is not a creature of the German state, and yet through an act of the Reichstag it was officially (albeit accidentally) recognized. The government, through various state and national bureaus combines, in devious ways, with purely private groups, with church groups, with political parties and with unaffiliated individuals, in a concerted effort to promote this "movement" towards a set of indefinite and very often conflicting goals. Like so many things in post-war Germany the thing that stands out most clearly about this movement is fog. Much of what has been written about it by German authorities is inaccurate. The new after-war

The author wishes to acknowledge the valued help given by Dr. Clara Maria Liepmann, one-time research assistant in the Prussian Bureau of Prison Administration. Grateful acknowledgment must also be made to Dr. Werner Gentz, Councillor of the Prussian Ministry of Justice, and to the following officials: to Drs. Weber and Zimmering of the Ministry of Welfare; to Drs. Cartes and Fischer of the German Archive for Youth Welfare; to Dr. Hildegard Boehme of the German Red Cross; to Dr. Kurt Lowenstein, Municipal Councillor for Berlin; to Herr Quadt, Socialist Party Camp Chief; to Dr. Heinze of the Wandervogel Groups and to Herr Kentkens of the Council of Youths Association. Without their interested assistance the material for this study could not have been assembled.

Republic, battling with the cross currents of over twenty political parties, not to mention other national difficulties, has not taken time, has not had time, adequately to evaluate this movement, to clarify aims, to consolidate procedure.

There are many ways of looking at the movement, and one finds pretty much what one wants to find. There



No matter how heavily laden the Wanderer's bicycle, musical instruments are always carried along.



Invariably the hiking groups met are school classes out with teachers. Older Wanderers travel by bicycle.

are organizations and more organizations. Naturally this new, huge movement has developed a nomenclature with a complexity of technical names and terms, all with fine shades of meaning, all contributing toward the one general all-inclusive term "Youth Movement." Additional difficulties are met in the prolific literature on the subject, a literature which befogs conditions rather than clarifies them. Youth publications alone reach the tremendous yearly circulation of over three million copies.

It seems almost necessary in approaching the subject to discard at the beginning all notions and impressions one might have at the present time because the Youth Movement today is quite different from what it was five years ago and decidedly different, in vital respects, from what it was in its inception. Present German writers are prone to look at the movement idealistically, to give it background and a foundation which probably never was in the minds of its creators.

To an American who knows nothing or very little about the whole idea it is confusing to find so many strange and conflicting stories, each written from a partisan viewpoint and many of which, upon investigation, are found to be quite misleading, although not intentionally so. There are over one hundred organizations of various kinds that make up some part of the whole movement. They issue newspapers, magazines and bulletins, and they all have members, leaders and others who are prolific writers about the movement—that is, their special conception or part of it. Small wonder that there is so much disparity between the writings and the whole fact!

The aims of the one hundred organizations very often differ. In some cases they are diametrically

opposed to each other and yet, withal, there are basic things in common, some principles that really are an outgrowth of the original Youth Movement started long before the war.

Since my return from Germany, I have found it most interesting to look through my files, articles, papers, books, pamphlets and discussions about the movement—data I had collected in the past five years. Only now, after this little study on the ground, in the Herbergen, with the German boys and girls on the trail, do I begin to see clearly. I find that one reason for this lack of clarity is the fact that so many German writers and lecturers who would interpret the movement to Americans, speak of it *as it was* and as they would like it to be, not as it is today, in 1931. For the movement has undergone radical changes recently; it is not following the paths the youthful founders visioned. And here lies a tremendous difference.

One American magazine article before me would have you believe that the Wandervogel of Germany constitute the bulk and bulwark of the whole Youth Movement. That might have been true before the war but today nothing could be further from the truth. The Wandervogel of 1931 and other similar freedom-loving groups of youth are practically on the present fringe of the movement, and in the aggregate constitute a very small number, (less than twenty-five thousand), in an organized movement of over four million enrolled members. In fact, everything you read about the German Youth Movement leads you to believe that it is a hiking-camping wave of youth. Millions of hikers are pictured with packs on their backs, roaming the hills, valleys and mountains of Germany, camping out along the way, their

tents dotting the sylvan glades of the Black Forest, the Thuringer Wald, the Bavarian Tyrol, the Harz Mountains and the Spessart. Groups of singing, youthful hikers are shown in pictures wandering on foot all over Germany, living outdoors, hiking, climbing, and hiking some more—to all the woodland beauty spots, to all the great outdoors. What an inspiring conception! What a portent of the new Germany, the Germany of Tomorrow! If only it were true! I say again, it may have been a true picture some time ago—but I seriously doubt the accuracy of the painting today. Newer, adult hands have applied other colors to the original.

German youth, of both sexes, 75 per cent of them (estimates vary from 60 per cent to 80 per cent) do most of their wandering on bicycles and do a relatively small amount of hiking. In fact, the other 25 per cent is made up of the school children hiking in groups with their teachers, and I feel sure that as soon as they can afford bicycles they, too, will take to wheels. More mist is generated when we read that this Youth Movement is youth-made, created by youngsters, led and conducted by them. Here again that may have been true many years ago, before the war, but it is certainly not true today. And so go many, many other of my preliminary impressions—my conception before I actually hiked and played and slept and sang with them, from Berlin to Freiberg.

The aims of the original movement have been changed materially by adult organizations. They have added, subverted and diverted the inner urge of German youth, as outlined in the Meissner creed, and today have steered them into channels against which the founders originally rebelled.

This point then is clear: the movement today is not at all what it was in its inception; it is not traveling the paths its founders sought; it is not living up to its original written creed, to its Declaration of Independence which is supposed to epitomize the intent, the wish and the goal of German youth. Another point that we must remember is the fact that, like many other movements, it has passed through various phases—(1) before the war; (2) during the war; (3) before the German Child Welfare Act, and (4) after it. Each phase has left its stamp on the movement and has changed it

materially. That is why the Youth Movement today bears small and distant resemblance to the ideals of its youthful founders—to its original phase.

But be that as it may, there is a movement going on in Germany, an inspiring, aggressive, idealistic wave of youth which carries at its head a flaming torch of light—which bespeaks a better day, not only for Germany but for others who can catch its spark. It started as a revolt against a too-commercial civilization, as a revolt against the strict German disciplinarianism, as a revolt against adult leadership and adult ways—a movement that would once again interpret the values inherent in the great outdoors, in the sweetness of bird colors, of soft winds and valley breezes, blue skies and starry nights. Youth would go back to nature, to the great outdoors and away from war, away from tension and from high speed. It has been changed, converted and diverted, used and misused by adults in succeeding phases, but it is the opinion of high officials in the German ministries and of students of the movement that German youth will again revolt and try to get back to the original aims that gave the movement birth.

I came to the German Youth Movement to get closer to this freedom-loving, outdoors-loving, hiking-camping wave of youth, only to find that the largest controlling organizations were decidedly and overwhelmingly those of the church and of political parties. The Wandervogel of which we have heard so much, the Naturfreunde (nature friends)—and all similar groups of hiker-wanderers are crowded out to the numerical edge, and are hardly worth listing in the statistics of the movement they started. Their aims gave the movement birth. They fostered the present urge into the open. Their creed became a rallying cry for all German youth. Yet the shadow of political parties and church organizations obscures their vision, has captured almost the entire membership of over four million youth and dictate their respective adult programs.

History of the Movement

Let us go back to the beginning. When in 1900, Walter Carl Fischer, a twenty year old law student of Steglitz, led his group of student friends on week-end trips to the various beauty spots, the highest hills

THE HOHE MEISSNER CREED

The Free German Youth feel the call to direct their own lives, setting their own goals and taking them upon their own responsibility in inner truthfulness toward themselves. Under all circumstances they will stand together for this inner freedom. Free German Youth Conferences will be held to promote mutual understanding.

All gatherings of the Free German Youth will be free from alcohol and nicotine.

adjacent to his home city, he little dreamt how far his work would spread. These friendly few wandered free as the birds themselves, away from the grinding, screeching wheels of the machine-driven city, away from conventionality and the formal restraint against which Youth so often rebels. Weekly their wandering feet turned toward the quiet country, to the great outdoors, to the meandering rivers and the songs of birds. Theirs was a new-old attempt to get closer to the all-mother Nature. These Wandervogel (wandering birds) all under twenty-one, were happy in their new found freedom and enjoyed the peace that only the woods can give.

The little group grew to larger numbers and later to additional groups; even to other towns and distant places the Wandervogel idea spread. The idea captured the hearts and imagination of revolting youth, and other groups under other names and other leaders caught the spark. The Friends of Nature, another important group, began to spread the gospel—their basic aims the same—to assert their independence from strict formal adult control and to learn to know the joys of nature. With each succeeding year new groups, new branches, greater numbers of students were drawn to the banner of a free youth. They organized themselves, they picked their own leaders from among themselves, and of course, they made their own programs. It was distinctly anti-adult in its conception. There remained small place, if any, for elders within their plans.

For thirteen years, until the centennial anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig (1913), this outdoor youth-made movement grew and spread to all parts of Germany. The celebration brought together thousands of people from distant places and also hundreds of youthful wanderers. These youthful groups, who previously did not know each other, bespoke their common aims, and joint meetings resulted. Bavarian joined with Wurtenberger and Saxon with Prussian. They pledged anew their independence—that youth would be free and live its own life, its own way. Breaking off from the main body of celebrants, more than five hundred of them decided to hike to the highest peak, to Hohe-Meissner, near Frankfurt in Hessen-Nassau, 30 kilometers away. Here would they pledge their creed for all Germany to see, for all youth to follow. And so atop this hill the youthful band took oath to live without liquor or tobacco, to shape their own lives and set their own goals; to be truthful to themselves and their own destinies, and lastly, to spread the word

from the Rhine to the Baltic—yea, and beyond.

The echo of their exulting songs that rolled from off this hill had not traveled far before it was drowned in an ominous roar from the battlefields. The youthful band and their followers, every one of them and many more, from sixteen to twenty-one, donned uniforms and were lost in the great war.

Into the black of the next five years was plunged the Meissner Creed, the "wave of free youth," now not even a phrase, and all over the Reich the youth-cry was stilled. Years went by, and times came in the dugouts when the weary hours and days must somehow be bridged, and thoughts turned back to pre-war things. Some there were who spoke of Meissner and the Creed—and born anew was the old love, the spirit of the outdoors. Trench groups were formed, this time, military Wandervogel groups, officer Naturfreunde groups and others. And new aims, new thoughts, new goals were added. There was to be no more war—no more military—no hate—only love—when the war should be over.

And through the terror and the blood-wet days of the war, ways and means of carrying on some part or other of the old program were found. In some cases, "Wanderers" bulletins were printed and eagerly read by every soldier-member. For every new aim that was added during these days, it seemed that another group sprang into being, each with its own special membership requirements. Some groups were open only to officers, others to enlisted men, while still others admitted only old-time, pre-war Wandervogel.

Politics Enters the Movement

In 1919, the war over, a period of great difficulty in the Fatherland set in. The old youth urge for peace, greatly intensified, for the quiet streams and the simple pleasures of nature, rapidly manifested itself, but this time the wandering groups spoke of new and strange things. Pacifism and political subjects were discussed, and political parties and candidates occupied youths' attention. Many there were in the groups who were now older, over twenty-one, even up to twenty-five and thirty years of age. Some of them had been Wanderers in the old days and they took the lead. With the changed aims and changed discussions one could see the rapid formation of a totally different type of Wander groups. Political groups, seeking power, groups that concerned themselves primarily with the solution of social and economic problems came into being. A

conglomerate variety of groups, each promoting its own new aims, its own ideas, rapidly spread over republican Germany.

Soon the need for better national organization—always an attractive word to the German—made itself felt. German boy and girl wanderers, slightly older than the pre-war type, were already visiting distant cities and distant states. The Bavarian who in the beginning blamed the Prussian for the war, after visiting Prussian cities and Prussian beauty spots, began to like him better. So with the natives of all the other states. The Saxon wandered through the intriguing mountain villages of the Black Forest, smiled at the quaint costumes and customs of the natives, became better acquainted with their folkways and music, and invited his forest hosts to visit him in Saxony. The Rhinelanders climbed the hills of Thuringer Wald and the Bavarian taught his joyous dances to the city boy from Berlin.

This distant inter-city, inter-state wandering ushered in the era of the bicycle. The greater distances traversed required a more rapid means of covering the ground and since the war the bicycle has come to be used in most of the wandering over the Fatherland. The "hikers" ride from city to city, from village to village and into the mountain districts; they coast downhill, and "walk" the bicycles up. The railroads make special fares and take special care of the Wanderer's bicycle when he travels on the trains. Everybody that can afford one rides a bicycle and in the main only the groups of school children with their teachers can be seen wandering afoot.

The Child Welfare Act

The members of the various wandering groups—now grown to impressive national size—many of them voters in the new Republic, made themselves felt in the councils of politics, in the politi-

cal clubs and even within the Reichstag. Witness the fact that on July 9, 1922, when the new German *Jugendfluge* Act was framed (*Child Welfare Law*) it included in its phraseology the words "care of Youth Movement also." It was just as though a similar act were enacted in our Congress to promote Child Welfare or a Children's Bureau and included in its phraseology the indefinite expression "and care also for the Hikers and their Hiking Clubs." Just that phrase, "care of the Youth Movement" and nothing more in the creation of the child-care offices and today we find



200,000 children from 8 to 15 years of age belong to the Red Falcons, whose camps are operated as Children's Republics.

national and state governmental bureaus financing and promoting, in various ways, the whole conglomerate movement.

But the *Jugendfluge* Act did something else, of more importance. It lent powerful stimulus to the promotion of national wandering organizations. In fact, it proclaimed to all Germany that these hiking clubs were here to stay, that the government recognized them as a factor in the promotion of good citizenship and intended to help organize them, to help finance them to help their general growth.

And growth there was—unprecedented, un-

paralleled in all history. Within nine years, 1922-1931, these groups of wandering youth have become national organizations already numbering over four million enrolled members between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five, *one-third of the entire youth population in that age group*. Regardless of aims, creeds or political genesis, all such organizations partake of some measure of help from national and state governmental agencies. Under the Federal Ministry of the Interior we find the German Archives for Juvenile Care (*Deutsches Archiv für Jugendwohlfahrt*), a government bureau with offices in Berlin and which functions as a research, study and information headquarters for the whole field of juvenile care. Part of its job is to lend books, magazines and pamphlets and to maintain library and reading rooms available at all times. It is made up of three official members of the ministry and nine members representing private youth organizations, the expenses of maintaining these offices being borne by the Federal Government. Another bureau, the Federal Council for German Youth Agencies (*Reichsausschuss Der Deutschen Jugendverbände*) gathers and disseminates information about youths' shelters (*Jugendherbergen*). Belonging to this council are one hundred and three national organizations, classified groupings which are given later.

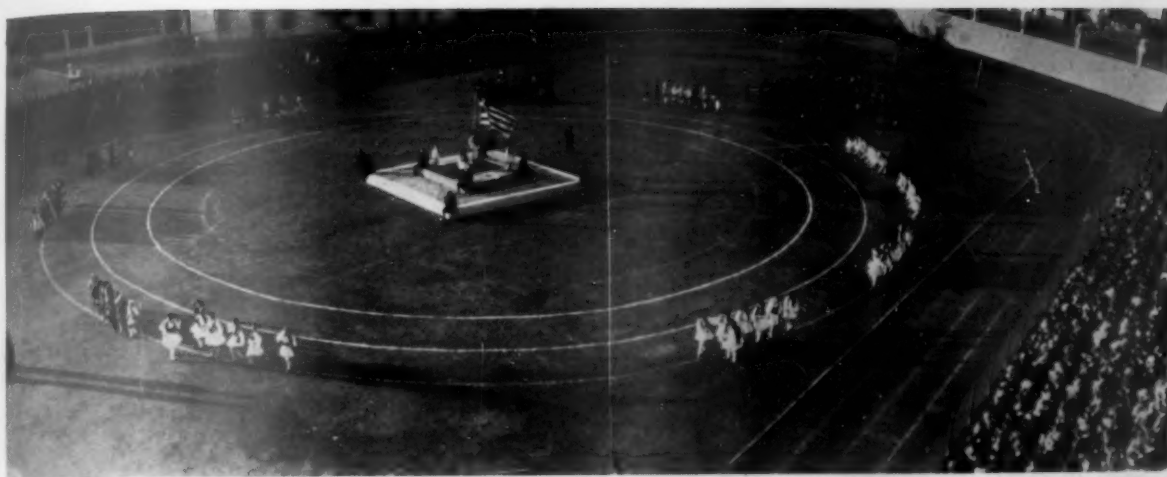
In the large state of Prussia, under the Minister of Welfare of the Department of the Interior, a Youth-Care Bureau gives advisory and partial financial support to the whole movement in that state. The bureau assists local communities in building shelters and sometimes contributes varying amounts of money for these purposes. In other states we find similar bureaus, all doing promotional work, advisory, statistical and financial. These government offices not only cooperate with each other but also work closely with private and semi-private organizations that care for youth.

In spite of the tremendous growth of this wonderful movement, government officials charged with this work are conscious of many weaknesses in the whole general scheme. They are quite aware of the criticisms, just and unjust, leveled at different phases of the Youth Movement, and are working toward and hoping for that day when the most important drawbacks will be obliterated or,

at least, made harmless. The most serious fault, if fault it be (and that depends entirely upon the personal viewpoint), lies in the very definite political pressure that party politics exercise upon growing children. The domination for good or evil of partisan politics is, nevertheless, very real, and the value to growth, especially for adolescent youth, is a debatable one. Some there are who decry the control of the church organizations, for they would have it a purely recreational health-building movement. Of course, parents of the pre-war era frown severely upon the "arrogance" of youth; the new-found independence of these boys and girls does not yet "set" well with them. They dislike the wholesale mutiny against parental-adult authority. Some there are who say that wandering affects the serious study and work in which young men and women should be engaged, and as for morals and social behavior, they will tell you that German youth is just rapidly losing all hold on decency. As for my own observations on this point, I found nothing worth criticizing. From some quarters vehement protests are heard decrying the leadership of untrained youth and bemoaning the disrespect for old traditions that generally accompanies such leadership.

And so it goes. We recognize that some of this reasoning is not exclusively German, nor particularly an outgrowth of the Youth Movement. From my own impartial point of view I came away with an intense admiration for the behavior of the wanderers and for the whole general plan. But it is interesting to observe that gradually the leadership has been taken out of the hands of youth and today most of the organizations are adult-made and conducted by adults in the good old-fashioned and very regular way. Look over the list of church and political organizations; compare their aims and their numbers with the bona fide youth groups and you can readily understand the important change in leadership that has been effected. As the adult control grows, increasing numbers of boys and girls break off from the main organizations and form new "neutral," "freedom-loving," "independent" groups. The new revolt of youth against the present Youth Movement and about which we already hear much is under way. "Neutral" groups are growing and the more progressive educators are happy about it.

(To be continued)



Celebrating the 100th year of Greek independence at the Y. M. C. A. playground, Saloniki.

Ten Years' Growth of the Play Idea in Europe

By Charlotte F. Kett

The League of Paris Red Cross Societies

"DO you ever play ball?" Mme. Houdré asked some girls of twelve.

"No; it would break the windows and soil the walls."

"You play hop-sotch, perhaps?"

"No; that spoils the asphalt."

"But you skip, surely?"

"No, that muddies our aprons in wet weather, and when it's fine there is too much dust."

This conversation, reported at the International Child Welfare Congress in Geneva in 1925, represents very fairly the low ebb of the play idea in many European countries, ten years ago.

Times change, and with them ideas; and the idea of play is no exception to the rule.

But is it possible to consider Europe as a whole? If we divide it roughly into the Germanic, the Latin and the Slav countries we get an idea of the cultural chasms existing between the traditions of the various peoples, but we still omit great geographical "chunks" and give a picture falsely simplified. France and Italy, for instance, fall into the Latin classification, but it would be a mistake to assume on that account that a child's education in the two countries would be similar,

or that the idea of play would advance with equal speed in both.

Aid for the promotion of playgrounds was available from the National Children's Fund of the American Junior Red Cross in all three countries in the early post-war period. In France and Italy it fell, on comparatively barren soil, but in Belgium it has borne fruit an hundred-fold so that in the past year, we have read appeals in the press, by French visitors returned from Belgium, for France to make as generous provision for her children's play, as does her neighbor to the north. And so it is coming about that playgrounds are spreading by contagion where they failed to "take" with the first inoculation. New inoculations are being given from time to time by private benefactors, and thanks to this stimulus, playgrounds in the crowded quarters of Paris are opening one by one. An unusual feature of their management is that a trained nurse is considered the ideal person to be in charge.

Workers From America Help

Between 1921 and 1925 three American playground workers, Ruth Findlay, William A. Wie-

land and Dorothy Marsh, working first under the auspices of the American Junior Red Cross and later under those of the League of Red Cross Societies spread the gospel of outdoor play by practical demonstration and by conducting training-courses for playground directors in various European centres.

The Findlay-Wieland Playground Manual, published in French in 1922, was the bible of the movement for many years, leading eventually to the publication (in 1929) by the Belgian Red Cross of their excellent "*Manuel relatif à l'Organisation des Jeux de Plein Air*," while Miss Marsh's work in Hungary encouraged the publication in 1925 of their Manual on the Organization of Games and Playgrounds, "*Napnyugati Játékok*."

Playgrounds were developed at an early date in Brussels, Liège, Jodoigne, Jumet, Charleroi, La Louvière, Dison, Tournai, and Seraing in Belgium, and the training courses for playground directors, or "monitors" as they are usually called in Europe, leading to a diploma, have been continued by the Belgian Red Cross in Brussels, La Louvière and Charleroi. In Belgium the installation, equipment and support of playground is becoming more and more a function of the public authorities, the Red Cross co-operating in the venture it initiated by training the workers, and creating a public opinion favorable to its development.

The summer courses for monitors given in Budapest in 1924 and 1925 by Miss Marsh reached some sixty teachers of physical education

from different parts of Hungary, many of whom were Catholic sisters. Here Junior Red Cross groups develop more or less modest playgrounds, usually in connection with their schools, at the rate of about thirty a year.



Such model playgrounds as this at Warsaw, Poland, are helping to promote recreation in foreign countries.

The Hungarian Red Cross, inspired by the example of Belgium, has conducted an interesting summertime demonstration in play-leadership in Budapest by roping off certain play areas in the city and organizing games among the children who were found in the neighborhood. It was felt that the social and moral effect of this effort was of the utmost value.

Mr. Wieland worked also in Italy, where a well-equipped playground was installed in Rome; in Austria, where Dr. Gaulhofer stands out as the able advocate of out-door play and physical training; and in Yugoslavia where 376 playgrounds are now in operation as an outcome of the impulsion given to the movement by his work. Many of these represent a joint effort on the part of the Junior Red Cross, the Sokol Society and the Parent Teachers' Association. Some have received assistance from the American Juniors.

The Movement Spreads

In Poland, the American Junior Red Cross has helped to install playgrounds in both Wilna and Warsaw, while Polish Juniors themselves have arranged for play centres in Lwow, Kielce, Lublin, Bialystock, Posen, Lodz, and other towns.

In 1927, the Czechoslovak Red Cross began to lay out a model playground for the use of the children of the seventh and eighth districts which, when completed, is to contain a rolled sandy area for games, a place for skipping and jumping, a tennis court, a grassy playground for little children with slopes for rolling, benches and trees, courts for volley-ball, basket-ball and baseball and a section devoted to "little gardens." A water system with shower baths and a locker-hut with accommodations for the guardian are also envisaged. The plan, elaborated by the playground specialist connected with the Ministry of Health, Mr. A. Ocenásek, inspired the American Juniors to contribute \$500 from their National Children's Fund toward its realization.

Latvia, on the Baltic Sea, is a country where the playground movement has begun almost by spontaneous combustion. The first Junior Red Cross playground was organized by the Municipal Girls' School of Cesis, in 1923, with aid from the Junior Red Cross Headquarters at Riga, amounting to 60 lats (\$12.00). In the same year eight other circles managed to do as well, and since that time the idea has shown steady growth. Here in the north an interesting variation is the organization of skating-rinks in winter.

It would be a mistake to picture all these playgrounds as either large, well equipped or perfectly organized. Many of them lack competent leadership, many have been arranged in the simplest possible way by the children's own initiative. But they exist; the idea has been planted, and for the most part it shows sound growth.

Some of the playgrounds, we must regretfully admit, are locked up much of the time and only

used by schools, according to a certain schedule, often for gymnastic exercises of the duller sort. The view that the body can be as harmoniously and well developed by a balanced program of free and joyous play as by some other militarized form of drill is one which develops slowly, but it is gaining ground. It was firmly put forward at the Second International Conference of Open Air Schools held in Brussels in April, 1931, where in addition two resolutions were passed in favor of the play idea: Resolution 6 advocates the advisability of both a garden and a playground "as spacious as possible" in connection with every city school. Resolution 7 desires to encourage city governments to create, in thickly settled districts, public squares and play spaces reserved for children and managed for their benefit.

Notice in the sixth resolution that significant word "garden." What European would be content to disfigure nature in order to arrange it for games? Beauty for him comes first, for instinctively he recognizes that there is a hygiene of the spirit which is as important, or perhaps more important, than the hygiene of the body. I think, as I write, of a play-space in the new world in a region where all the fruits and flowers of earth will grow,—which is nevertheless a mere sun-baked, surfaced area with apparatus where the child, if he can endure such ugliness, may develop as sound a body as one may want, at the loss of who knows how much in aesthetic appreciation!

Europe may care too much about not breaking the windows, not spoiling the asphalt, not dirtying the apron, but it is equally concerned—in most quarters—with not breaking the trees, not spoiling the view, not littering the grass. As the idea of joyous, health-giving play advances, may it do so without sacrificing that love of beauty which has helped to make of Europe the playground of the world!

"It is evident that the modern age is riding on a tornado of rapidity, jealously competing with its own past every moment in feed and production. We cannot stop its course, and should not, even if we could. Our only anxiety with regard to it is that we may forget that slow and mature productions of leisure are of immense value to man, for these only can give balance to a bloated accumulation and rhythm to the life that ever misses its happenings by missing the cadence of chastity in its enjoyment."—*Sir Rabindranath Tagore.*

"Compressed and crowded time has its use when dealing with material things, but living truths must have for their significance a full accommodation of leisure."

"What gives us cause for anxiety is the fact that the spirit of progress occupies a great deal more of our mind today than the deeper life process of our being, which requires depth of leisure for its sustenance."—*Sir Rabindranath Tagore.*

Leisure Time Activities in Great Britain

Great Britain is making rapid
strides in the acquisition of
playing fields and play spaces.

"THERE can be no doubt," writes Sir Lawrence Chubb, General Secretary of the National Playing Fields Association, "that in England the recreation movement is developing by leaps and bounds. This has been largely the result of the propaganda of the National Playing Fields Association. Last year we had a poster display throughout the country, and this propaganda must have had considerable effect in drawing the attention of the man in the street to the existence of a serious problem and the efforts that are being made to solve it."

Acquiring Land for Playing Fields

Since the organization of the National Playing Fields Association over four years ago, nearly 600 playing fields and recreation grounds have been provided. During the fiscal year ending April 30, 1930, the national association became trustee for 18 playing fields. In most cases, however, the title to the playing fields is conveyed to the local authorities or in some cases to the local Playing Fields Association as trustee. The national association from funds raised or contributed by the Carnegie Trust Fund grants funds and assists in the local acquisition of playing fields. Up to April 30, 1930, the national association had made grants to help acquire 323 playing fields, allotting nearly £83,000 from the Carnegie Trust Fund and over £24,000 from money contributed to the national fund.

Over 5,000 acres are included in the playing field areas which have been secured in this way. The Carnegie trustees have set aside a total of

£200,000; the national fund has raised in addition £164,734, most of which, however, is designated by the donors for use in connection with special local plans.

The total capital outlay involved in areas already acquired is over £2,000,000.

Practically every county in England has a local Playing Fields Association. Many of the cities in Scotland and Wales have also made a good start. There are now 46 affiliated branches.

One development in the work of the association has been the provision of services to local communities in the preparation and layout of grounds and in giving helpful advice and suggestions based on the experience of the national association which has begun publication of a magazine entitled *The Journal of the National Playing Fields Association*.

The association believes that its work has contributed to the recent action of the Board of Education, as a result of which for a period of three years ending the first of September, 1932, the National Board of Education is prepared to make grants to local educational authorities of 50 per cent of the approved expenditures in respect to new buildings and recreation grounds.

"The importance of this concession cannot be exaggerated. It is an inducement to educational authorities to obtain exceptional assistance without unduly adding to the burden of local rates, and evidence is accumulating to show that much use is likely to be made of the opportunity of securing half the cost of playing fields in respect to schools which at present possess nothing but wholly inadequate hard playgrounds adjacent to the school premises—grounds far too small for organized games."

One problem which the association and its local branches is facing, as well as hundreds of private

There are also many cultural opportunities made possible through travel and holiday associations and institutes.

cricket, football, lawn tennis, bowling and other sports clubs, is the local taxation problem. In hundreds of cases, apparently, local assessment committees have been raising the assessment on recreation grounds occupied by these amateur clubs which in the aggregate maintain near towns a larger area than is provided for recreation by the local authorities. These clubs are not, of course, carried on for the purpose of making a profit.

For Those Who Like to Travel

The National Playing Fields Association is an outstanding organization playing an important part in the development of recreation in Great Britain. There are, however, other organizations which are making important contributions in the leisure time field. Among these are the associations organized on a limited dividend basis which provide traveling service of various kinds. There is, for example, the Workers' Travel Association, Ltd., which arranges for working people and for representatives of all trades and professions to travel cheaply, safely and comfortably. The association has almost nine years of successful experience behind it and a rapid growth in the extent of its service. In 1929 it booked over 22,000 people for travel in Great Britain and on the continent. It maintains independent or affiliated centers in various cities in Great Britain and the European countries, and not only arranges for independent trips but conducts special tours, week-end parties, Christmas and holiday parties, involving travel to Switzerland, Paris, Germany or elsewhere on the continent or to holiday centers at home. Efforts are made to bring traveling members in touch with the progressive and cultural influences in the places visited abroad. Hostesses and leaders are provided. Lectures and social opportunities are arranged.

There is also the Holiday Fellowship, Ltd., which has been in existence since 1914 and which in 1929

provided for 28,000 weeks of organized holiday travel. Holiday trips to various interesting sections of Great Britain and also to continental resorts are organized. Guest houses are maintained in a large number of places with local hosts and hostesses and advisory committees. The Fellowship also maintains some camps for young people and has been a factor in

organizing and developing the Youth Hostels Movement which is seeking to establish inexpensive overnight resorts such as the Jugendherbergen Movement has established in Germany for those traveling afoot or on bicycles. They have already secured a number of resorts where overnight accommodations may be had for from sixpence to a shilling.

Low rates are secured in connection with transportation and the facilities of the guest houses, making it possible for members of the association and guests to secure a great deal in the way of travel and entertainment for comparatively little money. It is possible for members of the Fellowship to take a four weeks' trip into Russia, all expenses included, for about £31 and a two weeks' trip to the Pyrenees for £15 and 10 shillings. Weekly costs for various resorts in Great Britain run from 40 to 50 shillings.

The Cooperative Holidays Association, founded in 1893, incorporated in 1910, is just what its name indicates. Neither a philanthropical nor a profit making association, it establishes, erects or leases guest houses in various resort sections both in Great Britain and on the continent, provides hosts and hostesses, experienced leaders and lecturers for various trips and thus tries to make holidays for its members genuinely interesting cooperative occasions.

Over 25,000 "person weeks" at holiday centers were arranged for by the association last year. Collections taken up by the association at its regular Sunday evening meetings are used for furnishing to other working men and women who have no resources for themselves, occasional weeks of rest and freedom from care in certain of the guest houses which at add times are thus made available to such people.

A notable leisure time service is to be found in the work of the National Federation of Women's Institutes which is reaching out into rural districts and in many instances is transforming village life, Dr. L. P. Jacks has said.

For the Rural Dwellers of Great Britain

A notable leisure time service is to be found in the work of the National Federation of Women's Institutes which is reaching out into

rural districts and in many instances transforming village life, according to Dr. L. P. Jacks. A recent report indicates a total of over 4,500 Women's Institutes organized in England. There are in England a total of 12,256 parishes, that is, local governmental jurisdictions. Thus there is an Institute on the average for every three rural parishes. The total membership in the National Federation is over 270,000.

The Institutes are concerned with all kinds of interests of women, and many of the activities have to do with social and recreational interests. As one of the publications of Federation says, "There is no separation between educational and social activities in the Institute."

Institutes are counselled in planning their program "not to lose sight of the value of the social side which can give every member an opportunity to take part in the meeting, to make new friends and to feel that she is one of the community bound together for work and for play." Suggestions are made for music, both vocal and instrumental; for country dancing, Morris dancing, square dancing and dance competitions; for drama, reading, storytelling, pageants and tableaux; for many kinds of social games and activities; for exhibits and competitions in various rural activities; and for debating and radio programs. Competitions are urged to test skill or knowledge in peeling potatoes and apples, threading needles and sewing on a button in three minutes, naming the different breeds of poultry and other rural activities.

The Institutes have done a great deal with music, drama and handcraft. One interesting achievement of the National Federation is an arrangement with the "Performing Right Society" which controls the copyright of most modern music in England. By the terms of this agreement the National Federation pays an annual fee to the Performing Right Society and in return all public musical performances organized by the various individual Women's Institutes, either on their own behalf or jointly with another society, are covered and may be held without risk of infringement of copyright.

The National Federation has also arranged conferences of the judges who decide on the merit of the various drama presented by competing institutes in drama tournaments. Two original county ventures are thus described:

"The Epsom Group, Surrey, this year held a dramatic ballad competition in which six institutes took part. The institutes were allowed free choice of ballad and it was most interesting to note the

very different way in which each competing institute presented its choice. Some had a 'chorus' or 'bard' who declaimed the whole ballad, while the company acted in mime. Others let the 'chorus' or 'bard' give the gist of the ballad but arranged for the characters to declaim their own speeches. Yet a third method was the singing of the ballad by the 'chorus' or a soloist, while the company either mimed or partially sang the solo parts.

"The presentation of all the ballads followed in general the lines indicated in Miss Lawton's book 'Ballads for Acting' (Sheldon Press, 2s. 6d.). The judge at this competition preferred the form of presentation in which the choirs remained impassive and took no apparent interest in the action.

"Another interesting experiment was the Shakespeare competition organized by the East Kent Federation. One play, 'Twelfth Night,' was chosen and the judge visited each competing institute to hear a reading of the whole play. The play was divided into six parts of three or four scenes each and after the preliminary readings the judge allotted one of the six portions to each institute, in order to make up two complete performances of the play, one to be given on each afternoon of the festival. Each company rehearsed the scenes set it, but did not rehearse the whole play. At the actual competition the whole play was performed, each competing institute acting its allotted scenes. In order to help the audience to recognize the ever-changing characters, each company was paraded before it took the stage and each character introduced by name.

"This exceedingly original method of presenting Shakespeare showed obvious advantages and disadvantages. It ensures the reading of the whole play by the actors. The actors see their own parts acted by others and learn in watching them. The allocation of the various scenes among the institutes is unquestionably fair, as it depends entirely on how the play is read. On the other hand, the final production must lack continuity and, from the point of view of the audience, not only do the personators of the different characters vary in each scene, but their clothes differ. Moreover, as there is no complete dress rehearsal, timing and production generally must be very difficult."

In the handcraft field, the following activities have been found most popular:—embroidery, gloves, leather, plain sewing and raffia work, with basketry, chair caning and knitting among the next most popular.

"Musical activities are also gaining ground. Interest is aroused by means of community singing in which every member is asked to take part. Choral singing follows as a natural outcome, and the remarkable growth of the competition festival movement in England is an indication of the real love of music which exists among English people. The federation has also been instrumental in reviving handicrafts among country people. This work has been recognized by state assistance and many traditional crafts which would otherwise have been lost have been preserved, and are a source of pleasure and profit to those who practice them."

The Workers' Educational Association

One of the powerful organizations for adult educational work in Great Britain is the Workers' Educational Association which during the fiscal year ending in May, 1929, affiliated over 2,000 different branches throughout the country with over 26,000 members and nearly 40,000 students.

Most of the subjects afforded by the educational program are the ordinary academic subjects with literature and drama, economics, social and industrial history and general history, comprising the largest attendances. Vigorous movement within the association has developed the Workers' Educational Association Dramatic Societies. "The extent and the quality of dramatic activities among W. E. A. branches and groups is still far from fully appreciated. . . . Play-acting ventures are no longer a tentative experiment undertaken by a Dramatic Literature class at the end of the session; they have become the productions of well-organized and well-directed companies of players drawn from the full strength of the branch. And in this way they have helped to break down those barriers between students of the arts and of the social sciences which have sometimes been too apparent in W. E. A. work." Birmingham, for instance, has fourteen local W. E. A. acting groups. There are many more in London.

Most of these groups are affiliated with the British Drama League and in 1929 it was a W. E. A. Dramatic Society which won the final of the British Drama League's N. E. Area Competition and appeared on a London stage in the

"It has become increasingly apparent that in drama we have an instrument of that social cultivation which we call education. Drama is at once a most vivid and most subtle artistic medium, and is therefore a powerful instrument for the conveyance of ideas. In consequence, drama can be, under right conditions, a most potent instrument of moral, artistic and intellectual progress."—From report of Workers Educational Association Dramatic Societies.

All-England final. "This honor fell to the Birdwell (Yorkshire) players whose production of a local dialect piece, written by a local miner, is significant to those who believe that a renaissance of folk-drama is the only way of rejuvenating the anaemic English drama of today." . . .

For the Children of London

In 1905 Mrs. Humphrey Ward was instrumental in organizing the Children's Play Centers Committee in London. The work has grown until in 1930 there were 41 centers open in school buildings in the late afternoon and early evening all year round. They are supported in part by public funds from the London County Council and in part by private contributions. In 1930 the total expenditures were over £16,000, £7,500 of which were contributed by the London County Council.

A Sport Loving Nation

Sport is an accepted part of the Englishman's fundamental education. His sport is a part of his business of living, rather than the spontaneous expression of free activity, and it is evident to the observer, that while the cricket matches, the football games, the hockey matches and the other games attended are thoroughly enjoyed, they are taken seriously, with reserve and they lack that spontaneity and enthusiasm so characteristic of American games. But because it is the business of the Englishman to know his sports and to make them a part of his living, there are to be found everywhere facilities for sports. Even in the communities affected so greatly by the pressure of coal and cotton strikes the workers carry on with their Saturday matches. The Council schools have a half day a week for sports, and the public and private schools include sports as a regular part of the curriculum, in some instances to the exclusion of the more generally accepted studies.

Groups in country communities as well as the groups on the playing fields, enjoy folk dances, and to this day traditional dances are still to be seen on certain festival days in the villages in the north. The English Folk Dance Society has done much to foster the preservation of the old dances.

Recreational Developments in Turkey

By Barent Burhans

As one of the recreational advisers provided by the American Friends of Turkey, Mr. Burhans is in a position to give first-hand information on recreational developments in Turkey.

"**P**LAYING games are idle activities to while away the time in which only children should indulge, and that not too often."

This was the old attitude of the Turks toward recreation—an attitude which for so many years made progress impossible and has necessitated a long demonstration period.

Previous to 1930 when the first official governmental step was taken in the direction of national recreation development, there had been attempts at developments, some of which had met with success. At Adana, for example, the American Mission Board has conducted for two years a playground in connection with the Mission station which is open to certain groups during specified hours. Some years ago a small playground was established at Istanbul. No provision was made for leadership or maintenance and the playground soon disappeared. A number of communities have realized the need for playgrounds and interest is developing rapidly.

In 1927 the Smyrna Welfare Council, with the help of the American Friends of Turkey, established a community sport field. Sport clubs and teams were organized. With the cooperation of the government a stadium was built on the sport field and even today it is the best stadium in

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Field Day at Robert College is full of excitement for the boys.

Turkey. An American equipped playground was also opened in the city park, located in the very center of Smyrna. Here a complete program of activities was conducted with the help of American leadership, and the use of vacant lots for play purposes was also promoted. In 1929 the City of Smyrna assumed responsibility for the continued operation of this work and the American Friends of Turkey transferred their efforts to Angora, the national capital, where in cooperation with the government it began to construct in the summer of 1929 a playground designed to serve as a model for the Turkish nation. This playground, known as the Fuat Bey playground, was officially opened in April, 1930, under the auspices of the Himaye-i Etfal (National Child Welfare Association) and the American Friends of Turkey. The establishment of the program was under the management of a group of deputies of the National Assembly who were appointed by the Prime Minister. This ground is the first of four model playgrounds to be built as demonstration centers.

Such a demonstration is necessary because the people of Turkey have not had opportunity in the past to become acquainted with the value of play as we understand it. As a means of education and character development play had never entered the minds of the people of the country, or if it had, it was suppressed as something outside of the established order. With the establish-

ment of the new Turkish Republic, however, the people have been given an opportunity to express what they feel, and during the past few years it has been possible to see the beginning of an ideal for the youth of the nation in which recreation will play a large part.

How the Present Movement Started

When the Turks drove the Greeks out of Smyrna, an American, Asa K. Jennings, rescued 300,000 Greeks from the burning city. He had a real interest in the people and seeing the need for a welfare program in Smyrna, with the support of some friends in America he helped establish the Smyrna Welfare Council which stimulated the recreation program of that city. While there his work attracted the attention of the national authorities, and he was soon asked to come to the capital to inaugurate a national piece of work similar to that started in Smyrna.

The leaders of Turkey have an excellent idea of what is needed for the youth of the nation, but they lack technical knowledge and for the most part, the necessary funds. The friends of Mr. Jennings in America undertook to supply the funds. For many years this group was known as the American Friends of Turkey, but it was not until 1930 that the group was incorporated and headquarters were established in New York.

For the past two years the American Friends of Turkey have cooperated with a Special Commission of the Himayei Etfal composed of ten men. Within a short time an incorporated Society for the Promotion of Welfare Work in Turkey has been organized which will act as a federation of all institutions doing welfare work. This society is under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The American Friends of Turkey are

now cooperating with this group by furnishing two social and recreational advisers, and funds to the extent of one-half of the budgets called for in new projects of welfare work.

The First Model Playground

The Fuat Bey playground was constructed in the heart of Angora on a side hill of loose dirt directly behind the national headquarters of the Himayei Etfal. The hill was graded into three terraces and beautifully fenced. The terraces are covered with lawns and have trees and flower gardens along the tops. Benches and attractive signboards depicting mottoes for Turkish children

are scattered about the grounds, which are divided into five sections three apparatus sections, one sport section, and a pool section with a swimming pool 49 by 26 feet attached to which is a wading pool 26 by 17 feet. The three apparatus sections are for



Armenian, German, Turkish, Bulgarian and Russian girls at Constantinople Woman's College.

kindergarten, intermediate, and senior children and each section contains the apparatus appropriate for that age group. All apparatus was donated by the Everwear Manufacturing Company of Springfield, Ohio, and is complete. In the sport section basketball, volley ball, and handball are provided for. A portion of the basement of the Himayei Etfal building has been fitted up for a dressing room, showers, and handcraft activities and rainy day programs.

The present staff, all of whom are natives, consists of a supervisor, two game teachers, a kindergarten teacher, apparatus attendants, caretakers, and a watchman. All of them work under the leadership of the technical advisers furnished by the American Friends of Turkey. As soon as the training of the native personnel is sufficiently advanced, the leadership of the advisers will be withdrawn.

Since the opening of the playground in April, 1930, over 3,000 children under sixteen years of age have participated regularly in its program, and the average daily attendance has been over 800. The playground is open every day in the year from 9:00 A. M. until dark. The programs are posted in advance on a weekly basis, and holidays and special days are taken into consideration. The winter's program has included kindergarten activities, apparatus play, organized games, free play, athletics, handcraft, stunts, group games, and quiet games.

The Ministry of Education has recently arranged that all new schools shall be provided with adjoining playground space. At present very few schools are equipped for recreation. Calisthenics are compulsory in all schools and are conducted according to the Swedish system which does not provide much recreation. The Fuat Bey playground has therefore arranged through the Ministry of Education for schools to use the playgrounds as a part of their curriculum. Eight groups from six schools are now on the playground for twenty-seven periods a week during school hours. One very progressive teacher conducts all of her physical geography classes in the sand boxes. All school groups on the playground are under the supervision of their own teachers and the playground staff assists the teachers during the recreational periods.

Activities

Soccer, volley ball, wrestling, and horseback games might well be called the Turkish national sports. Of these soccer is outstanding. Twenty-six years ago this game was introduced through a French college in Constantinople. After a short time it was banned by the Sultan and remained dormant until the time of the Revolution when it was revived with the aid of the British soldiers. Volley ball was introduced twelve years ago by a worker of the Y. M. C. A. at Constantinople, who promoted this game in schools and other institutions. Practically every school in Turkey has facilities for volley ball.

Wrestling is indigenous to Turkey and much that the rest of the world knows of this sport came from this country. Formerly every young man of Turkey knew something of the game called Cirit, which is a form of polo. It is not

so popular at the present time, but for centuries horseback games had been of the greatest interest in this country partially because of the influence of the mounted armies stationed here.

Basketball, volley ball, baseball and vobakr have been the main sports on the Fuat Bey playground. Vobakr, a new sport developed by the American advisers, is a very active game for a small space embracing features of volley ball, basketball and cricket. While there is plenty of interest in the games, it has been very difficult to teach them because of a number of factors—the feeling of the big boys that they have right of way over the small boys; the class distinction, which still exists to some extent, and the prejudice against participation of girls in athletic events. There is, too, a dearth of knowledge of the rules of the games since practically none of the official rules are printed in the Turkish language, and a lack of understanding of the values of training and practice. Chiefly through imitation, but also by careful and sympathetic training the youth of Turkey is learning to "play the game," and the program of activities is ever widening.

Activities other than athletics are developing. In the handcraft classes the children are learning to make articles such as kites, hitherto thought of as available only through commercial sources. They are also learning the lesson of awaiting their turn on apparatus. Many are still somewhat at a loss during free play periods, but they are slowly developing initiative.

Other Recreational Developments

The second demonstration playground in Angora is a very small one at the National Baby Home. This is situated just outside of the city and houses one hundred babies until they are five or six years old. Here, soon after the Fuat Bey playground was opened, was installed such apparatus as was suitable for these younger children. The experiment has proved very satisfactory.

At the present time the third playground is in the process of construction. This will be known as the Hammam Onu playground. The Fuat Bey playground was an expensive undertaking and is only for children under sixteen years of age. The new playground is being installed as cheaply as possible without losing any of its effectiveness,
(Continued on page 464)

Turkey's old attitude toward recreation is rapidly being replaced by a spirit of openmindedness toward modern developments. From Angora as a demonstration center the play movement is radiating to all parts of the country. The work of the American Friends of Turkey in furnishing funds, leadership and demonstration centers is doing much to help in making recreation more widely known.



At the outdoor theater of the recreation center

Mexico City Attacks Its Leisure Time Problem

IN years past travelers in Mexico have often observed the pathetic emptiness in the life of the average Mexican boy or girl belonging to the underprivileged classes. They have noted the pitifully small amount of activity in natural, free, spontaneous play which he has. The child, stifled and suppressed through centuries of heartless domination, has been characteristically a sad and rather listless creature. But the spark was still there; it was to be found in the glint of the bright, black eyes. Though timidly at first, the child responded readily to intelligent play leadership, and the Revolutionary Government, socially minded, in turn stimulated this response by providing a most comprehensive program of leisure time activities.

On January 1, 1929, the Department of the Federal District of Mexico was created providing for the fusion of the ad-

By Enrique C. Aguirre

ministrative and technical functions of the previous municipal administrations of the City of Mexico with fourteen other cities and towns in the Federal District and the so-called Government of the Federal District. The chief of the newly created Department of the Federal District became a Cabinet officer appointed by the President of the Republic, and the offices of the governor of the Federal District and the mayors of these various cities disappeared. The chief of the Department has power to appoint "delegates" of his Department as heads of the various municipal units which function in each town.

Mr. Aguirre, formerly Director of Recreation, Department of the Federal District of Mexico, tells of the reorganization plans which have made it possible for a remarkable recreation center to be erected in Mexico and for a large number of playgrounds to be established.

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With this reorganization there came an opportunity for the President of the Republic, Licenciado Emilio Portes Gil, and the newly appointed chief of the Federal District, Dr. J. M. Puig Cassauranc, to launch

a most ambitious program of civic action, social welfare and recreation for the whole District. The high lights of this program may be divided into three major parts:

First, provision for civic action through a speakers' and lecturers' and publishing bureau, and the organization of pageants and fiestas recalling vividly the historic life of Mexico, personages of Mexico, and events of major importance through the centuries.

Second, the establishment of eight social centers for the masses of the various communities in which a social, educational and recreational program was developed every evening under competent leadership.

Third, the realization of a comprehensive recreational project for the children, young men and young women in the congested areas of population.

A Notable Recreation Center

Without adding anything to the weight of the overburdened taxpayer, an investment of nearly a million and a half pesos was made in 1929 for the construction of a large recreation center, forty acres in extent, only five minutes' ride from the very heart of the city, the Zocalo. This project called for the erection of the following units within the center:

A spacious gymnasium, forty metres in length and twenty metres in width, well equipped with

a large spectators' gallery, with modern shower baths, steel lockers, and exercising rooms, and with a capacity of more than two hundred participants at any one time.

Two outdoor swimming pools, one for men and one for women, each one thirty-three and one-third metres in length and sixteen and a half metres in width, provided with grandstands, each seating approximately two hundred spectators.

Outdoor courts for tennis, basketball and volleyball.

A library with a capacity for 150,000 volumes.

A day nursery for infants and small children.

A baseball diamond with a grandstand seating 1,400, and a complete equipment of dressing rooms, showers, etc.

Five "fronton" courts for the "pelota" game.

An outdoor theatre with an enormous stage on which colorful pageants are being produced, and a seating capacity of 2,500.

A football field with a four hundred metre track and a two hundred metre straightaway, and grandstands seating 800, with their respective dressing rooms and shower facilities.

An extensive and well equipped children's playground.

A moving picture pavilion seating 1,400, which is often used as an indoor theatre.

The Department of Parks landscaped the grounds, planting trees, flowers, shrubs and lawns in a most attractive fashion. The Engineering

On Sunday afternoons crowds throng the recreation center. At that time moving pictures are shown in this building.



Bureau had charge of the construction program and provided a splendid lighting equipment in order that the center might be used in the evenings.

The budget was provided for out of the economies obtained through the administrative reorganization of the Federal District mentioned above.

Ground was broken on the 15th of March, 1929, and on the 20th day of November, the anniversary of the Revolution of 1910, the center was inaugurated. President Portes Gil, diplomatic corps and high government officials attended the celebrations. These lasted five days, the total attendance passing the 200,000 mark.

The center is functioning free of charge for the underprivileged classes of Mexico City, mostly day laborers, skilled and unskilled factory workers and students, under the leadership of a staff of sixty-five teachers and play leaders. The average daily attendance is about five thousand men, women and children, with the first group predominating. The activities in which they engage have had a most beneficent influence in the whole district in which the center is located.

In addition to the realization of this vast project, a three year plan was formulated for the

establishing of thirty-six playgrounds in the most strategic locations in Mexico City and the Federal District. During the first year twelve of these were functioning under the leadership of eighteen trained teachers who developed a complete program of recreational and athletic activities for the boys and girls, such as dramatics, singing, weaving, music, dancing, athletic meets, contests, championships in basketball, volley ball, baseball, football, track and field, handball and similar sports. The attendance at each one of these playgrounds increased to such an extent that it was not unusual to see six or seven hundred children at one time in one of the playgrounds, especially on Sundays and holidays. The budget for the equipment of these grounds as well as for the personnel to direct them, was borne by the Department of the Federal District from funds representing economies in its administrative reorganization.

Mexico, the land which in the past has earned too well the reputation of instability, is today wide-awake to the social needs of the people and is investing large sums for the sake of improving its condition and stimulating the masses to a larger and fuller life through an intelligent use of their leisure time.

Physical Education and Recreation in Uruguay

PHYSICAL Education in Uruguay, according to a bulletin issued by the International American Institute for the Promotion of Children, is under the control of a national committee concerned with the preparation of annual athletic contests, the organization of physical education associations, the promotion of public playgrounds and baths and the popularization of health instruction by means of lectures, books and periodicals. There are local sub-committees in the departments which represent the national committee. The activities of the committee comprise the establishment of public playgrounds, instruction in physical education in primary and secondary schools and in prisons and reformatories, and the organization of sports.

There are 75 playgrounds in operation at the present time and 43 yet to be added. The program, which is very broad, comprises gymnastics, athletics, games, handcraft, nature study, gardening, storytelling, music, and dancing. Bathing facilities are free on Sundays and other feast days

for workmen and employees. All the beaches in the city and others on the coast are provided with playgrounds and leaders to teach games and similar activities, particularly swimming. The total attendance at the public playgrounds in 1929 was estimated at almost 2,000,000.

The school program provides two hours a week for exercises and games in the school and three hours a week on the public playground. Great importance is attached to games. A wide program of activities will be developed when the school parks begin to operate. The school camps, which have been conducted for a number of years, the School Sporting League, the health clubs and the posture examinations are also included in the program of physical education.

Physical education is also organized in prisons and reformatories under the leadership of special teachers and with the program adapted to the age, sex and habits of their inmates. The penitentiary and the Boys' Educational Colony are provided with well equipped playgrounds.



These were once the only dances familiar to the native girls.

Recreation For the Black Folk of South Africa

By Ray E. Phillips

"**W**E certainly were surprised," said a recent visitor in Johannesburg, "to find how mistaken we were about South Africa. We expected to find plenty of wild animals and jungles. Instead, we find a country very much like parts of the United States. We certainly didn't expect to find great modern cities like Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg."

Much could be written about American misconceptions of South Africa. Most of them are as mistaken as is the popular South African conception (gained from the movies) that all Americans are cowboys or Indians.

Nearly two million white people make South Africa their home, with about three times that number of black folks who form the bulk of the rural population. The discovery of gold and diamonds, however, with the resulting mushroom growth of large cities like Kimberley and Johannesburg, has meant a tremendous demand for cheap labor. This labor for the mining and industrial cities is drawn from the Native areas in the country.

Today 350,000 Bantu men are at work in the City of Johannesburg alone, 200,000 of them in the gold mines and living in the great enclosures or compounds. Their wives and children are left behind in the country. The remaining 150,000 are working in shops, factories and homes of the

Perhaps you know South Africa. If you do not, you will learn many surprising facts from this story.

white folk. Of these latter, over half have made the city their permanent home and have brought their families with them to share this new civilization of the white man.

In a word, the rush of the white man to South Africa, the opening of mines, the building of cities, have had a terribly disrupting effect upon the whole life of the black man. His old tribal

Now the girls of Johannesburg are being taught folk dancing.



life is being quickly swept away as he is plunged into western ways of life. It is for the Native black man a time of great strain. He tries vainly to find his feet in a new order of things which is totally strange. He is blindly accepting what he sees of the white man's ways of living.

The demand is greater in South Africa than in most other lands for carefully adapted leisure time activities which shall teach these newcomers how to occupy themselves worthily when not at work. Employers are interested in the black man largely as a worker. What he or his family do with their leisure time has, until recently, bothered them not at all. But times are changing, and increasingly white South Africans are beginning to interest themselves in the problems of recreation for Bantu folk. Overseas missionaries have blazed the way here. They have pioneered in many fields of endeavor. And it is a tribute to missionary efficiency that today there are to be found so many recreational and social agencies at work among black folk.

In Johannesburg

For the 200,000 gold miners in the Johannesburg area, weekly moving picture shows are being given in each great compound. Films are carefully chosen and censored by a missionary worker who employs the operators and supervises the fifteen circuits. The cost, almost \$27,000 yearly, is borne by the mine owners. An experiment is now being undertaken under missionary leadership, financed by the mines, to demonstrate the value of supervised social center activities in the compounds. Large rooms are provided where social workers direct games and allied activities of a various sort. Two compounds have installed playground apparatus of an up-to-date and approved type which is popular. These ideas are bound to spread to all the fifty-five mine compounds.

For the Bantu city workers, a large building in the heart of Johannesburg, the Bantu Men's Social Center, furnishes a home for hundreds of city workers during their non-working hours. This plant cost \$35,000, money contributed by American missionary societies, gold mines, and Johannesburg business men. Here is found the largest gymnasium in South Africa; a night school reaching over 100 men; clubs and organizations for music, literary work, boxing, evening athletics, and similar activities. A committee of Johannesburg missionaries and business men ad-

minister affairs of the social center and provide a paid secretary and staff.

Early this year a Bantu Sports Club was opened to the black public. Eleven acres of ground within a mile of the City Hall of Johannesburg had been given by two business men for use as a sporting center for Native people. Thirty thousand dollars was obtained by a local committee from various sources. A huge grandstand was erected fronting the large playing fields; tennis and tenikoit courts and a large club house complete the present equipment. Plans for a swimming pool are under way. It is intended that from this center South African Native sport will be organized for far and near. December will see the first amateur athletic and track meet for the country held on these grounds, and at that time a South African Bantu Amateur Athletic Association will be formed. A beginning has been made in certain centers by way of organizing local sport. A Johannesburg Soccer Association, now numbering 52 teams, plays weekly for trophies presented by prominent merchants and mining authorities. In Johannesburg, Durban, Randfontein and one or two other places, annual sports days are regularly held for the whole Native population. These are all-day affairs and are very popular.

For the Bantu children organizations along Boy Scout lines have arisen for boys and girls. Some 3,000 Bantu boys are now doing Scout work in an organization known as the "Pathfinders." About the same number of girls are enrolled in the "Wayfarer" movement, an organization entirely independent of any white organization, but controlled by local, provincial and national committees of leading European and Bantu women. Children in Johannesburg have football and hockey leagues organized for them. They take a prominent part in the annual athletic competitions. Weekly free moving picture exhibitions are given for them at the Bantu Men's Social Center and in several of the municipal locations where thousands of the married Bantu people live. Moving picture shows are given regularly at three large golf clubs for the Native caddies, this free service being provided by the Johannesburg Rotary Club.

In Other Cities

Outside Johannesburg not so much is being done. A Bantu Y. M. C. A. at Bloemfontein is
(Continued on page 465)

Dreams Come True in Belfast

By Veronica J. McFeeters

DO dreams come true? Do the fairies gather around the children of Ireland, weave magic spells about their wishes and bring them to pass?

Yes, often! You of the practical mind, take note! One day some years ago, a gray eyed, dark haired Irish girl stood in one of the play centers in Chicago and as she gazed on the children enjoying the play facilities provided for them, a fervent wish arose from the depth of her heart. "How I wish we could have play centers like this in Belfast!" Her wish was so fervent that it became vocal. "What's the matter now, 'Irish'?" asked her companion. "Oh! I was just wishing we had grounds like this in Belfast." "Gee! I guess not. You couldn't manage to get stuff like this in your antiquated town. Why, you are hundreds of years behind the times."

The answer was like a red rag to a bull. The hot Irish blood flamed up and she said, "Just you wait and see! Inside of twenty years you Americans will be coming over to Belfast to get ideas for your play centers. When we start we'll show you how things should be done!"

The angels and fairies who guard the destinies of the Irish people, bent down, heard the wish of the Irish colleen of Belfast, took it and planted it in the heart of a brave citizen of that city, Sir Robert Meyer. He, too, began to see visions and dream dreams. The matter was talked over in the Committee of the Parks Department under the chairmanship of Councillor Albert Hodgen, J. P. Lo! the dream materialized; the vision has



Sand pile studios are the delight of these young Belfast artists.

eventually come true!

Belfast now has ten up - to - date, well equipped play centers organized by the Municipal Corporation of the City of Belfast. In all the grounds special provision is made for the all-round development of the children. In each of the play centers there are suitable swings, giant strides, slides, merry-go-rounds, ocean waves,

joy-wheels, sand gardens, paddling ponds, and other facilities. Each play center is under the leadership of a fully qualified teacher.

For the physical development of the children various games are taught—stool ball, net ball, captain ball, tenikoit, tennis, cricket, football, running, jumping, high and long. In addition, each ground has gymnastic drill, comprising Swedish and hand apparatus. This, combined with folk dancing and rhythmical movements, constitutes a fair program of activities. In the fostering of creative and artistic ability, we teach sand modeling, raffia, basket weaving, cardboard construction, sewing, embroidery, crocheting, and knitting. On the educational side are provided speech training, elocution, verse speaking (after the manner of the Greek chorus), singing, and storytelling.

Kindergarten methods are used in the training of the little ones. Sand modeling is being brought to perfection, while nursery rhymes and singing games are used for the development of speech and rhythm. Eurythmics have been introduced this past year into the kindergarten, the children delighting in forming poses of Greek statuary.

It has been only during the last three years

that the Committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor J. McKinney, J. P., and acting on the advice of our general superintendent of parks and play centers, Mr. George Horscroft, has made this progress. The play center movement is growing and much credit is due to the foresight and practicability of our superintendent in bringing the centers to such a high standard.

The first two centers to be opened outside the public parks were Hemsworth Street and Eastland Street. The former, in Court Ward, has an area of one acre, two roods, and five perches. The latter, in Woodvale Ward covers an area of one rood and thirty-two perches. These were opened by Lady Meyer (wife of our town clerk), Councillor Hodgen, then chairman of the parks and play centers, presiding. The chairman stated on that occasion that the Committee did not intend to look back, but to go on until Belfast could boast of being amply provided with play centers for the young.

Glimpses of the Playgrounds

Take a glimpse at Hemsworth Street Center on a day of bright sunshine. The ground is crowded. The paddling pool is the center of attraction. To the children it is not a paddling pool, but the wide, wide ocean. The toy ships which they sail on its waters are not toys but privateers armed with daring buccaneers who are voyaging forth in search of adventure. What a boon to the children, who though they live on an island, may not have a glimpse of the ocean more than once a year, and that through the generosity of the various charitable institutions. Our Corporation has planted the play centers in the poorest districts where congestion and poverty are the rule of the day.

Watch the girls in this ground as they dance round the gaily beribboned Maypole! See their smiling Irish eyes and listen to the lilt of song on their lips!

Our next journey is to Eastland Street. This play center is situated in a working class district. Here we find the children better clad and better fed, and enjoying to the full the games provided for them. Watch the girls and boys as they dance the "Kerry Reel" or the "Irish Jig." Grace and rhythm are in their actions. Next, a basketball contest

takes place—girls versus boys—and the girls are victorious, the boys retiring crestfallen but good losers.

Our next journey is to Donegall Road and Henry Street. The latter is a small ground, but good work is being done in it for the children of that congested districts. Every available inch of ground is utilized for games. Go there any day the weather permits and you will find tennis, rounders, deck quoits, and skittles all in progress simultaneously, while in a small corner a number of girls are mastering the swinging of Indian clubs.

In Donegall Road Center, near the famous "Sandy Row," the children congregate in large numbers. This is one of the districts where our famous footballers are trained. In this ground they have been taught the first rules of the game.

We now go to the County Down side of the city, across the Queen's Bridge, where we can hear the clang of the hammers building the ships that sail the seven seas. And from this point we see the tenders filling up with emigrants for America. Already the United States and Canada have absorbed some of the boys and girls of our play centers. We guarantee they will make you good citizens, for they have been trained to "play the game"!

This ground is also famed for football. Already some of the older boys have attained fame in that direction. In this district the children for the most part come out of homes devastated by drink and gambling. They are ill clad and ill fed. To these children the playground is fairyland. Watch them as they perform their "garland," drill to the music of the gramophone. See the eager faces brighten up with whole-hearted intensity! Surely this is a garden of dreams in a dark and gloomy place. In contrast to this we find Clara Street play center, under the shadow of the Castlereagh Hills, a much larger and better equipped ground. It has an area of two acres which gives plenty of room for games.

We now leave the dust and congestion of the crowded areas and take a look at Drumglass Balmoral from "druim," a ridge or long hill and "glassin," a green place. This center, as its name implies, is a place of sylvan glades and mossy dells, where one may expect to see Pan peeping out from amidst

Miss McFeeters urges all Americans going to Belfast to visit Queen Mary's Gardens which lie close to Cave Hill, "Ben Madigan," on whose summit the face of the guardian spirit of the city has been carved in relief. "Surely when the lights of the city grow dim and the pale stars shine above, he will smile in pride as he beholds this garden laid out for the children's children of the warriors who fought on its hillside long ago."

the trees, surrounded by gnomes and fairies. The whistle of the birds as they call to one another sounds like the pipes of Pan. Truly in this garden of play one could never, never grow old! This beautiful woodland, part of the Musgrave estate, was generously given over to the Corporation for a play center by the late Mr. Henry Musgrave, D. L. It contains six acres of soft, green fields interspersed with foliage and tall trees. One enters the main gate in the spring to be greeted by the perfume of wall flowers. A gracious spot for the little human flowers to grow up in!

With regret we leave the mossy dells of Drumglass and wend our way once more to the densely populated districts of Boundary Street and Hay Market. Both are small centers. One might almost ask, "Can any good come out of these places?" Though opened a little over a year ago, the work has made marvelous progress. Hay Market is proficient in both Irish and English folk dancing. One little boy—a future architect if the fates be kind—can build wonderful houses in the sand. We asked him to put a thatch on a house he had modeled, and he thereby turned it into an Irish farm house. It was easy to get the straw for the thatching, for the ground, as its name implies, lies close to the Hay Market, where the stuff is bought and sold.

In Boundary Street the children will proudly exhibit their willow basketry and raffia work. In skipping exercises, eurythmics, and verse speaking, they excel.

Finally we come to Castleton play center which was donated and fitted out by the firm of McLaughlin and Harvey, builders and contractors, in memory of the late W. H. McLaughlin, D. L., one of the leading citizens of Belfast. The ground was opened on May 14, 1930, by Mrs. J. S. Morrow, daughter of the late W. H. McLaughlin. The Lord Mayor, the Rt. Hon. Sir William Coates, Deputy Lieutenant, presided and accepted the gift on behalf of the family from Major

McLaughlin. The ground, which covers an acre, is thoroughly up-to-date; no expense was spared in constructing it. The children who use the ground are being taught good sportsmanship. To see the budding Hobbs at their cricket match is a worth while sight. They are oblivious to all around them. To them "the game's the thing."

This summer we hope to open our eleventh play center which will contain tennis courts, a children's play center, and a rest for old people where they may have their games of chess, draughts or quoits in the fresh air. Our Committee and superintendent provide for all children irrespective of age! By kind permission of his most gracious Majesty, King George V., the ground will be named "Queen Mary's Gardens," in honor of his most gracious consort, Queen Mary. It will be officially opened by the Lady Mayoress, Lady Margaret McCullagh, C. B. E.

Under these conditions the children of Belfast are growing up. The educative value of play is kept in the foreground. Even in play the proper use of our beautiful language is taught, the use of dialect being forbidden during the playing of the game. To say "the lep," instead of "the leap" in skipping means that the perpetrator must drop out of the game. "Drastic measures," you say, but the child remembers not to transgress again. St. John Ervine, the writer and dramatic critic, said in one of his articles: "If one wishes to hear good English spoken go to Belfast." We are anxious to keep our reputation and so speech training receives prominence.

We are making rapid progress. Though dark clouds hover over our industries and money seems as scarce as snakes in Ireland, yet Sir Robert Meyer with the aid of our chairman, Councillor McKinney, and his Committee and our indefatigable superintendent, are dreaming of other play centers through the city in order that every child shall have the chance to grow up and play in decent surroundings, safe from the dangers of the street.

Australia Preserves Her Natural Beauty

WITH all the financial difficulties which Australia has, she still finds time, according to the *New York Sun*, May 15th, to try to keep her highways free from wayside signs and billboards which would mar the natural beauty and make it impossible for passersby to enjoy it. The Main Roads Board is reported to

have ordered the removal of all advertisements painted on fences beside the roads for which they are responsible. The agents promptly painted the sides of the barns and hung advertisements from trees a little distance from the roads and now the Board has ordered that all advertisements that are visible from the roads shall be removed.

How the Children of Hungary Play

By Lewis W. Riess

National Physical

Director,

Y. M. C. A.'s in Greece

ONE of the most thrilling experiences of my two weeks' stay in the Magyar nation was seeing the exhibition of folk dancing given at one of the Burgher schools in Buda. The eighteen dances on the program were perfectly executed by the children of this school whose ages ranged from twelve to sixteen years. The joy of the children as they danced for their parents was in itself a delightful thing to see. Dances of all nations were included in the list, but those of Hungary were naturally the most perfectly done and the most popular, and well may they have been, for there is a rhythm and swing to them that makes an onlooker wish he, too, could dance them! I doubt if any nation has such a fine, varied program of folk dancing in its physical program as that conducted in the Hungarian schools.

The Physical Education Program

The physical education program of the Magyar schools is a complete one. All children are given medical examinations yearly and there are frequent lectures on health, sanitation, and hygiene. Gymnastic work, which includes folk dancing for the girls and one year of military drill for the boys, is compulsory in and out of school until they reach the age of twenty-one years.

A National Board of Physical

In Hungary the schools are providing a program of physical education which includes all varieties of games and sports. As a feature of the program it is required that each school have a Boy Scout troop. Camping is considered a very important activity.



At the Y. M. C. A. National Camp Pelion volleyball is a very popular game.

Education directs the program. The teachers are usually graduates of the Royal Hungarian School of Physical Education, founded in 1925, but there are some who have not had this training. These teachers from an early day are required, however, to appear once a week at the Royal School of Physical Education to listen to lectures and secure new information in their field of work. There are inspectors of the school recreation program and also workers called "Intendants" who serve under the inspectors.

For those who are not in school but are under the age of twenty-one, there is a society called "Levente" (upright men). These non-students must continue their gymnastic work until full manhood is reached. A careful checkup is kept and the registry list is examined every year by inspectors of the Central or Municipal committee. Every factory owner employing more than 1,000 men is required to have a "Levente" Society. If the factories

(Continued on page 466)



Los Angeles County invites you to enjoy winter sports.

Los Angeles—The Host of International Recreation

By John C. Porter
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

If you would see Los Angeles at its "gala, holiday best," go to the Recreation Congress in 1932!

GRACED by every natural advantage of climate and topographical feature that a community could possibly desire, and peopled by men, women and children who consider recreation a prime objective of life, Los Angeles, scene of the International Recreation Congress of 1932,

will provide a vast and intensely interesting laboratory of study for the recreation leaders who will come from every corner of the world to attend this meeting.

The city of Los Angeles is situated on the breezy Pacific Coastal plain, facing on the one side the great western ocean and on the other the mighty rock-ribbed mountains. Semi-tropical in nature, the climate permits of an abundance of natural beauty and variety in plant life.

The combination of a mild climate the year around and of boundless facilities provided by nature herself for the play of her people has thoroughly imbued Los Angeles and Southern California with the idea and

the ideals of recreation in all of its variegated forms.

The ocean and its beaches, the mountains and their quiet retreats, the eternal sunshine and wide sweep of the out-of-doors, have left their impress upon the character of this section of the United States and have devoted its population to the cult of wholesome outdoor play. Amid settings of semi-tropical foliage, on sun-swept pine-clad mountain slopes, or on the clean white sands of ocean beaches, the people of Los Angeles resort to their play with a vigor and interest that is boundless in its enthusiasm.

These are the things which have attracted hundreds of thousands of persons to Southern California from other places throughout the world, and the recreational advantages which have thus proven a magnet to so many people will be found of intense interest to those who participate in the meeting of the world's play leaders.

Upon such a well adapted natural foundation, public organizations have built a system of recreation designed to bring the play opportunities of

These earnest musicians will see that music is not lacking!



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Southern California within the reach of all who desire them.

In the City of Los Angeles

The city of Los Angeles annually spends \$850,000 in the operation of its public Playground and Recreation system, while an additional \$400,000 is spent by the county of Los Angeles. During the year 1931 the sum of \$1,000,000 was voted to the municipal Playground and Recreation Department and another \$1,000,000 to the Park Department to be used for the double purpose of expanding and improving public recreational facilities and furnishing employment to hundreds of workmen. The result of this expenditure is now apparent in the host of ultra-modern structures and other improvements of the very latest type in design and construction which have since risen in Los Angeles.

Included in the present system operated by the city Playground and Recreation Department under the leadership of Superintendent Raymond E. Hoyt there

are at present 48 municipal playgrounds, 13 municipal swimming pools, 4 ocean bathing beaches, 5 vacation camps, recreation piers, boat houses, beach bathhouses and other facilities too numerous to mention. The estimated valuation of this recreation system is at present approximately \$15,000,000. Its abstract value to the nearly twenty million persons who annually make use of it is of course immeasurable in terms of dollars and cents.

The Los Angeles municipal playgrounds, in addition to their many new and modern facilities, boast of a program of activities well worth the serious study of recreation

leaders everywhere. In addition to the regular program of play found at the average playground, a balanced program of special activities carried on either continuously or seasonally provide a means of expression for every kind of temperament and touch upon the special interest of all types of individuals. The municipal playgrounds are open throughout the year, receiving their principal use after school hours. During vacation periods, all day programs of recreation featuring special interest activities are provided.

In addition to their rapidly increasing use by Los Angeles children the municipal playgrounds are showing constant growth in their service to adults. The various community clubhouses of the city, built along the graceful lines of old California architecture and equipped with recreation halls, club rooms, kitchens, and similar recreational facilities, are neighborhood "town houses" where social, musical, dramatic and other types of recreation are fostered.

Adult recreation at municipal play centers of Los Angeles is also receiving an increasing stimulus through the installation of night lighting equipment which makes these centers available to those who must work throughout the day. Lighted baseball diamonds, volley ball courts, tennis courts and other evening recreational facilities have been established.

In a city which, during one of the most rapid expansion periods known to modern times, has increased its traffic hazard and crime problem along with its population, the municipal recreation centers have won



The city offers you beautiful out-of-door fetes and pageants.



the confidence of the public because of their counter attack upon these two situations. While traffic accidents have increased everywhere, the Los Angeles municipal playgrounds have exhibited the welcome anomaly of a constantly decreasing accident rate. While crime waves have alarmed the public everywhere, the Los Angeles municipal playgrounds have proven excellent deterrents and preventatives for juvenile delinquency, a fact borne out by a recent statement of the Los Angeles Chief of Police.

Swimming Facilities Abundant

Just why Los Angeles has produced such world famous swimmers and divers as Buster Crabbe, swimming champion at many distances; Georgia Coleman, national woman's diving champion; Harold "Dutch" Smith, national men's diving champion; Mickey Riley, Olive Hatch, Dorothy Poynton, Jennie Cramer and others too numerous to mention, will be more readily understood when the magnificent Los Angeles system of municipal plunges is viewed.

During the past year an extensive program for the construction of municipal swimming pools has been undertaken by the city of Los Angeles, and is now nearing completion. During this period four big and modern plunges were finished and two more are being completed. Each of these pools is equipped with standard safety devices and the most advanced type of purification systems available. Adjoining bathhouse buildings carry the romance of old California in their graceful Spanish lines. In many cases year around use of the bathhouse structures has been insured by constructing them in such a way that they are serviceable both as a bathhouse and as a community club house.

Among the plunges now in construction is the huge Los Angeles Olympic Swimming Pool and Stadium, destined to be the greatest competitive swimming center in the United States, perhaps in the world. Plans of the Playground and Recreation Department for this project call for a swimming pool of metric dimensions



The swimming stadium under construction for the Olympic Games has a concrete grandstand seating 5,000 people.

equipped with steel diving towers and provided with everything required by the rules of international aquatics competition. A massive steel and concrete stadium adjoining the plunge will seat 5,000 spectators. Underneath this stand will be a two-story bathhouse which will include team dressing quarters, a gymnasium, club rooms, and other facilities. The Olympic pool, which will be all deep water, will be flanked by a semi-circular shallow pool for general recreational use, and the entire layout will be beautifully landscaped to provide a setting for outdoor plays and water pageants. In addition to the use of this center for the aquatic sports of the Olympic Games, it is also to be the site of numerous great competitive meets of the future.

On both the western and southern ocean fronts of Los Angeles public beach playgrounds serve millions of persons yearly. An efficient and highly trained corps of lifeguards is provided by the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department to protect the lives of bathers at the beaches. The Venice beach has recently been equipped with one of the finest municipal piers to be found on any shore, the Sunset pier and recreation center. On this structure is located a modern bathhouse serving the public at reduced rates, an outdoor auditorium, and a big glass-enclosed picnic center equipped with the most modern of conveniences.

On the southern coast, one of the most unique oceanside playgrounds in the United States is being developed at Cabrillo Beach located at the foot of the government breakwater at Los Angeles Harbor. Cabrillo Beach, which was reclaimed several years ago from the rocks and reefs by the

dumping of one million cubic yards of sand, has now become a center for all forms of boating and fishing as well as for swimming. A boathouse that looks like a Spanish lighthouse serves as a municipal yacht club, providing a headquarters for sail boat races, motor boat races, speed boat and excursion trips, fishing excursions and other forms of marine recreation. A big bathhouse and general recreation building is being completed at Cabrillo Beach, and a program of artistic landscaping and construction of play facilities now under way is expected to help in making Cabrillo Beach the Waikiki of California.

Other Recreational Opportunities Offered

The multiple recreational advantages offered by the towering mountain ranges close to Los Angeles have not been overlooked by the city. Municipal camps located at scenic spots in National Forests

provide low-cost vacations for the Los Angeles public amid scenes of beauty and quiet. Two of these camps are located in the San Bernardino mountains at distances of 75 and 95 miles respectively from the city. A third camp is situated in the mighty High Sierras, "California's Alps," at a distance of 335

miles from Los Angeles. These mile-high playgrounds make it possible for families of limited means to visit and enjoy the recreational features which nature has provided without the large expense. For the use of children, camps for boys and girls are operated in the wilds of Griffith Park, much closer to the city.

Not content to provide only the places and the facilities for the enjoyment of public recreation, the Los Angeles Department of Playground and Recreation goes far afield in offering its services

to those who desire them, whether or not such services are used in connection with public play centers.

A program of industrial recreation reaches out to the industries of the city, organizing their employees for participation in all forms of recreational activities. Instruction classes in every popular sport, games and playdays, organized hikes and outings, horseback trips, social events, musical and dramatic activities and a host of other forms of play are made as readily available to those who must toil throughout the day as they are to those of greater leisure. Similarly a far flung program of organized sports makes it possible for those who have ended their school athletic days to continue along the lines of recreational enjoyment that they have chosen. Numerous musical and dramatic organizations cater in like manner to the interests of recreation seekers wherever they

may be in the city.

The Los Angeles municipal Playground and Recreation Department, the first of its kind to be established in the United States and now in its twenty-seventh year of service, has developed to the point where it may be an object of valuable study to recreation leaders of all communities. So varied are the problems



Los Angeles has many municipal plunges. The swimming pool at Griffith Park is among the most attractive.

of all the year around recreation in Los Angeles, so numerous are the types of public play centers and public play offered in this city, that practically every form of municipal recreation service to be found anywhere is here exemplified.

Los Angeles County a Vast Playground

The Los Angeles County Department of Recreation Camps and Playgrounds, with an annual budget of \$400,000, under the leadership of Fred E. Wadsworth, Superintendent, administers five

and a half miles of state and county owned public beach frontage, including the model area at Santa Monica Canyon. The Department also administers the county owned regional areas and has a Community Service division which serves the unincorporated area of the county.

The chief of the regional areas is the Big Pines Recreation Camp located in the mountains ninety-six miles from Los Angeles. The program at Big Pines is widely diversified, and attracts an annual attendance of two hundred and

rinks and an "ash-can" slide. Being at an elevation of seven thousand feet, it has snow and ice for from four to six months each year. From ten to twenty thousand people journey to this mountain area each week, and the peak attendance for last year was 21,000 in one day, this figure having been reached on the last day of the Winter Sports Carnival. The county program is unique in that the Department conducts summer and winter activities at the same time. Ten life-guards are retained the entire year, as the weather at the



The Recreation Lodge at Camp Seeley, one of the municipal mountain camps of Los Angeles.

fifty thousand people. In the summer time the area functions as a free camping ground and is a center for summer camps of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and the allied groups. The fourteen organization camps with dining halls and bunk houses maintained for the groups have an average attendance during the summer of a thousand boys and girls each day. The program for campers conducted under leadership throughout the summer months includes swimming classes, nature hikes, handicraft classes, social activities, and daily programs in the outdoor theatre.

During the winter, the Big Pines Camp is converted into a winter sports area with skating, skiing, tobogganing and all other winter sports conducted by trained leaders. The Camp has six toboggan slides, three ski jumps, two skating

beach encourages swimming in spite of the fact that the mountains may be covered with snow.

The county-wide tournaments are centered at the County Fair Grounds, and in the past year sports tournaments, harmonica contests, dramatic tournaments, and horseshoe tournaments have been conducted there. At the annual horseshoe tournament staged jointly by the city and county recreation departments, 696 games were played in a six-day event to determine the county championship.

The county Department is also the sponsor of the Los Angeles County Drama Association, an affiliation of forty-seven Little Theatre groups in the county designed to stimulate the development of Community Theatres.

The population of Los Angeles, made "recrea-
(Continued on page 467)

The International Advisory Committee of the International Recreation Congress

WHEREVER high ideals of clean sportsmanship are cherished, the name of the 17th Earl of Derby (Edward George Villiers Stanley) is honored. As a member of the Jockey Club he is the representative of the highest traditions of the turf, and as Chairman of the National Playing Fields Association he is leading a movement which stands for sportsmanship. He has served his country in many capacities—as Postmaster General, as Director General of Recruiting, as Secretary of State for War, and as Ambassador to France.



The Rt. Hon. Earl of Derby K.G., G.C.B., G.C. V.O., London, England

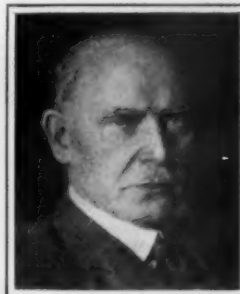
Lord Derby is known and appreciated by all classes and has won their affectionate regard. As President of the Pilgrims and of the Travel Association of Great Britain and Ireland, he is showing that his sympathies are not bounded by national frontiers. His ideal is that Britain shall be known as a nation dominated by standards of fair play.



Herbert Hoover, Honorary President First International Recreation Congress

DR. LEWALD was born in 1860 in Berlin. Since 1900 he has been an active and effective promoter of the physical education movement in Germany. Elected in 1919 as President of the German National Commission for Physical Training, he served at the same time as Chairman of the German Committee for Olympic Games. He was Commissary of the German Empire at the World's Fair in Paris in 1900 and in St. Louis in 1904. In 1924 he was selected to represent Ger-

many on the International Olympic Committee, and since 1926 has been a member of the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee. He is President of the German Life Saving Society and Chairman of the Curatorial Board of the German College for Physical Education. His service to his country includes his holding of the office of Secretary of State in the National Ministry of the Interior.



Theodor Lewald, Dr. Jur. H.C., University of Bonn LL.D., University of Wisconsin, Berlin, Germany

PLANS for the International Recreation Congress are proceeding most encouragingly, and much interest is being shown. Visitors from Europe, Asia, South America and other countries have come to the office of the National Recreation Association to offer suggestions, and a number of Americans traveling abroad during the past year have helped to spread the word and to arouse interest in the 1932 meeting. Running through the replies received and the conferences held is a note of enthusiastic appreciation that such a meeting is being planned. There are many expressions of hope regarding the possibilities in this opportunity for an international exchange of information.

DR. MASARYKOVA, internationally known for her activities in connection with the Czechoslovak Red Cross, of which she is President, was born in 1879. She studied medicine and philosophy at the Universities of Prague, Leipzig and Berlin, and later spent two years in Chicago studying methods of social work. Upon her return from America she was active as professor in a college for girls, but during that time she devoted herself to social work problems. It was under her leadership that a school for social work was opened in Prague and within the past few years she organized the principal private social work agencies of Czechoslovakia in a National Health Council.

Dr. Masarykova's activities since the war have centered chiefly about the Red Cross which is giving much attention to recreation through the establishment of several recreation homes for children and the organization each year of over thirty summer camps for children. The so-called Red Cross Truce, stressing public health problems and held each year on the Saturday before Easter in hundreds of towns and villages, was inaugurated by Dr. Masarykova who is associated with all public and private welfare movements in Czechoslovakia.



Dr. Alice G. Masarykova
Prague, Czechoslovakia



Count de Baillet Latour
Brussels, Belgium

COUNT DE BAILLET LATOUR is internationally known for the contribution he has made to the promotion of the Olympic Games. Since 1903 he has been a member of the International Olympic Committee, serving as Chairman of the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920. At the present time he is President of the International Olympic Committee.

Count de Baillet Latour has always shown great interest in the development of playing fields.

ONE of the pioneers in the physical education movement in Hungary, Dr. Szukovathy is known as Royal Medical Councillor in recognition of his work in the field of physical education and hygiene. He is Director of the Royal Hungarian College of Physical Education, Co-President of

the National Boy Scout Association, Administrative Vice-President of the Hungarian Junior Red Cross, Vice-President of the Home for Crippled Children, President of the Hungarian Sport Physicians' Society, and a member of the Committee of the Hungarian

Public Hygiene Society and of the Board of Physical Education. His international relationships include membership on the Executive Committee of the International Sport Physicians' Association. He is also a member of the International Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Körperliche Erziehung, and a corresponding member of the American Academy of Physical Education. All of these organizations are active to some degree in the recreation field. During the past year Dr. Szukovathy has organized and conducted a holiday course for teachers of physical education, both men and women, and has given promotional talks over the radio. He is editor of *Good Health*, a periodical.



Dr. I. Szukovathy
Budapest, Hungary

MISS Prazmowska, after completing high school in 1919, entered the University of Warsaw, receiving in 1924 a diploma as teacher of natural history and physical education. She has always been interested in scouting and since 1921 has been an official of the girl scout movement.

A number of camps and courses in camping have been organized under her leadership.

In 1927 Miss Prazmowska became associated with the Governmental Board for Physical Education where she is chief of the women's division. She has

made a special study of children's playgrounds and has visited a number of American cities studying their playground systems. The first model playground for children in Warsaw was built under her leadership. Miss Prazmowska is President of the Polish Handball Union.

MR. PIHKALA, President of the Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association of Finland, was born in 1888. After a trip to the United States in 1912-1913, he introduced many modern methods of training into the track and field athletics of Finland through the publication of a number of text books and newspaper articles and by serving as

Coaching Secretary for the A. A. U. in Finland, 1913-1917. Later he became Athletic Director of the General Staffs of the Army and the Voluntary Militia of his country. Through frequent trips to America Mr. Pihkala has been a close student of recreational activities in this country. He is known as the creator of a batting the ball team game, a substitute for baseball in Finland which is rapidly growing into a national game. He has been associated with all Finnish Olympic teams since 1908 and for many years was a member of the board of man-



Wanda Prazmowska
Warsaw, Poland



Lauri Pihkala, M.A.
Helsinki, Finland

agers of the Track and Field Association of Finland, repeatedly representing his country at congresses of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

MR. THOMAS, who represents France on the International Advisory Committee of the International Recreation Congress, is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and later was professor of industrial history in that institution. During the war he was a member of the War Cabinet and was responsible for organizing the industrial manpower of France. Mr. Thomas is Director of the International Labor Office at Geneva and had an important part in framing the recommendations on labor drawn up at the Geneva Conference in June, 1924. He has been at the head of the leisure movement in France, as organized in the Fédération Nationale des Coöperatives de Consommation, and its Comité National des Loisirs, serving as Chairman of the latter group which has done some very effective and practical work within the cooperative movement. As a result of its activities there have been established in France various vacation groups and colonies, vacation centers or summer hotels, a movement has been started for the beautification of the home, and various kinds of cultural groups and vacation homes for children have been organized.

BORN in 1879, Mr. Langkilde became Director of Physical Instruction in Copenhagen in 1919. As Secretary of the Copenhagen Playground Association he has been active in arranging School Sport Days in that city.

ADDITIONAL members of the International Advisory Committee are Dr. Ricardo C. Aldao, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Captain G. Van Rossem, Amsterdam, Holland, and Senor Julio J. Rodriguez, Uruguay.

The First World Congress on Recreation

A WORLD Congress on Recreation is the next significant event on the horizon of the recreation movement.

All eyes are turning toward Los Angeles, where in July, 1932, for the first time delegates from all parts of the world will gather to exchange experiences and to consider how leisure may be made to serve mankind.

For more than a year plans for this meeting have been developing, and the response from the four corners of the world has again justified the belief that the interest in recreation is

interest in the Congress. In other countries special committees are being organized to see that their countries are adequately represented.

Time and Place July 23rd to 29th, 1932, Los Angeles, California

The time and place for the First International Recreation Congress were set to accord with the Olympic Games. It was felt that this occasion would naturally bring together representatives from many countries who would have an interest in the general field of community recreation as well as in the Olympic Games. Combining the two events would result in a great saving of time and money, especially for delegates from countries other than the United States.

The Congress will open on Saturday, July 23rd, and close on Friday, July 29th. The Olympic Games will open the next day, Saturday, July 30th. The Congress and the Olympics will be held in Los Angeles. This arrangement will make it possible for a delegate to attend both without any loss of time and without additional expense between these two world events.

Reservations for Olympic Tickets

Already reservations for tickets to the Olympic Games are pouring in. In order to protect Recreation Congress delegates, a block of seats has been reserved until December 1, 1931. These must be taken up before that date. All Congress delegates are urged to write or wire directly to the Olympic Committee, Los Angeles, California, for tickets and to specify that reservations should be in the Recreation Congress section. This is preferred space and will not be reserved after December 1st.

An active local arrangements committee for some months has been making plans for tours, demonstrations, exhibits and other features that will make the Los Angeles meeting of utmost value to all who attend from this country or other lands.

This Congress indeed offers an unusual opportunity. It is worth considering. It is worth planning for. It is worth sacrificing for.



Albert Thomas
Geneva, Switzerland

universal.

A distinguished group of men and women, prominent in the affairs of the various cooperating nations, is now being formed into an International Advisory Committee. With the endorsement of President Hoover, who is serving as Honorary President of the Congress, and with the active cooperation of the State Department, invitations have been transmitted through diplomatic channels to over fifty other nations.

Pamphlets printed in foreign languages together with invitations have been distributed to all organizations and individuals in other countries listed with the National Recreation Association. Over 1,500 such invitations have been issued.

Thus far nearly fifty delegates from twenty-two countries have reported that they are coming. Another group of sixty names from thirty-three countries are listed as prospective delegates.

Newspapers and periodicals in foreign countries for some months past have carried announcements and editorials about this world meeting. In some countries certain organizations are taking responsibility for further



H. P. Langkilde
Copenhagen, Denmark

Orphans and Athletics

The story of the transforming power of play in the starved lives of orphaned refugees.

By Allen McMahon
Near East Foundation

PICTURE a vast plain, once the parade ground of the soldiers of the Russian Czar, at Alexandropol, now Leninakan, Armenia, with gray barracks scattered about which, if put end to end, would stretch for a mile, where 22,000 orphaned children lived and first learned the rudiments of play under the guidance of American relief workers.

Dr. Mabel E. Elliott, in her book *Beginning Again at Ararat*, said, "There was not one healthy child among them. Fourteen hospitals were opened, but every orphanage was also a hospital, every child was a patient, and medical treatment was as much a part of the orphanage routine as meal time."

These children, of whom there were altogether 132,000 in orphanages in various Near Eastern areas, are spoken of in Dr. James L. Barton's *Story of Near East Relief* as follows:

"They were blighted in their schooling and starved in body and soul. They were gathered from the highways and the refugee camps, wandering vagabonds searching for a morsel of food, ragged waifs casting their uncertain lot with the old, the decrepit and the sick. Disease, from the

insanitary, crowded camps, had covered many with repulsive sores and made them untouchable. They lived in dirt and filth without a change of clothing for their shredded rags, vermin infested. The unclean, wizened, emaciated, pathetic faces, pleading for bread, gave no hint of a forgotten happiness, an abandoned home. Hunger was stalking about on feeble skeleton legs, in a leather, mummified skin stretched tightly over protruding bones, with eyes that did not see but only stared. From such as these was to come the recruited childhood of tomorrow, the hope of a new Near East."

Letters from overseas workers in those days just after the war when American relief work was in its infancy, were full of stories of these prematurely aged little ones. The burden of the plaint was that they knew not how to play. Tragedy was their keynote, apathy had become a tradition. They would sit in the warm sun against a wall, but they were afraid to come out and play ball.

Play to the Rescue!

Little by little, with infinite patience in coaxing, the Americans began to teach play. Slowly, as the orphanage school work grew, play strengthened in the program. Gradually baseball, football, basketball teams were organized. As the boys and girls began to emerge from the orphan-

ages, at the age of sixteen, to take their places in the workaday world, through their clubs and leagues an athletic standard was set up, until in the last few years certain phenomena have appeared, when one considers the material

which went into the making of Near East "athletes."

Recently the Near East orphan basketball team was awarded the championship of Greece, that ancient home of classic sports. A young Armenian in Egypt holds the lightweight boxing championship. A soccer match, arranged between boys

"They would sit in the warm sun against a wall, but they were afraid to come out and play ball." There is a happy sequel to this, however, for later through the play program many of these same frightened little waifs have become outstanding athletes with standards of sportsmanship of which any nation might be proud.

of the Near East League, all sturdy artisans, and students in the American University of Beirut, representing seven races, was won by the orphan boys. Time and time again the sportsmanship of Near East boys and girls, whether on the winning or the losing side, receives commendation in the local press.

Near East Foundation, organized a year ago to succeed Near East Relief, follows that organization's work in orphanage schools by transmitting America's health, agricultural, child and community welfare and leadership training technique to the underprivileged masses of the Near East, among whom the 132,000 orphanage-trained children are now living.

In the Foundation's program re-creation is serving as an aid to character building, to better health and living and to better inter-racial understanding.

It has been said that the character of a race is formed by its recreative activities. Good sportsmanship, team play and co-operation are ideals equally of western play and western culture. In the Near East, where play, particularly group play, is almost unknown, individualism is

the keynote of the social order. But the East is changing. Recreation as a re-creative force slowly is entering its social consciousness. Child life, long ignored, at last is stirring the interest of progressive leaders who are investigating the experiences of other nations in order to give better opportunities to its new generations.

The psychological value of recreation was proved again and again in the American orphanages of the Near East. Games, music and play helped to efface the tragic memories of war and to train children whose health, morale and character are admittedly above those of the average child in a Near Eastern home.

Night schools, athletics, orchestras and clubs, all varying expressions of re-creation, were established by Near East Relief to sustain the better living standards of the orphans. Near East Foundation has taken over these activities and is enlarging them to meet the needs of orphan and other underprivileged youth. The existing work is the starting point from which the Foundation is launching its new educational program in better living for working boys and girls of all creeds and races.

Welfare Centers and Night Schools

Homes for working boys and girls, established by Near East Relief, have been taken over by the Foundation and are being reorganized as Welfare Centers. Facilities have been increased and the service originally limited to orphans is now avail-

able to other working boys and girls. Supervision is maintained over older members who club together in units of three or four in their own rooms near the Centers. Consultant service on health and morale problems and recreational and night school activities are meeting definite needs. In



Truly western enthusiasm for sports is displayed by these boys on the field supplied at the Cairo Welfare Center.

most Centers a daily hot meal is served at cost.

To many homeless boys, the Centers stand for the comfort and security of home. Welfare Centers in Cairo and Alexandria are noteworthy illustrations of what this service can mean to a group of working boys and girls. The Centers are housed in buildings of utility and charm which the Foundation has rented and equipped for simple cafeteria service, reading rooms, and dormitories. They also provide night school classes, athletic activities, employment and health bureaus and even take the traditional place of the oriental parent by arranging marriages among the orphan children. An average of six hundred attend the

"home-coming" or get-together which is held each month. Reed M. Davidson, father-in-effect to all the former orphanage children in Egypt, directs the Foundation's program there.

Welfare Centers under the Foundation's supervision includes five in Athens (three for boys and two for girls) and others in Syria and Palestine.

Of increasing importance are the night schools conducted by the Foundation in connection with the Welfare Centers. In lands where great unemployment has created keenest competition, the Foundation is helping boys of ability to become master craftsmen and to secure the general education which means a decent living. Twelve hundred boys and girls who toil in shops and factories all day are enrolled in our night schools. Courses in religious education are also a part of the night school program, and in Athens are con-



ducted by graduates of the American School of Religion in Greece, and by special representatives of the Greek Archbishopric or graduates from the Athens University Theological School.

Playgrounds

The Foundation is maintaining model playgrounds for children in Bulgaria, Greece and Syria. Lessons in health and better living are part of the playground ritual and are carried into the home through a follow-up service.

In Sofia, the Foundation conducts three playgrounds in the poorest sections of the city at a cost of about \$1,000 a year each. The daily attendance of the largest is well over 1,600 a day. A nutritious national beverage is served daily.

Equipment, home-made and copied from American playground catalogues, includes shower baths, swings and slides. L. E. Feldmahn, Russian exile, formerly a member of the Russian Council of Empire, is the Foundation's representative in Bulgaria.

The Foundation has been requested to equip and maintain in cooperation with the local government a model playground and athletic field in Beirut, available to all ages. A suitable site now is under consideration and the project should be an actuality in a few months.

A model playing field is now in course of construction in the Kaisariani refugee camp in Athens where the

Children of a Syrian village learn to swim with the help of a Near East Foundation nurse.

Foundation is demonstrating an anti-tuberculosis project. The new field is opposite the school founded by the wife of Premier Venizelos. In order to help refugee families and others to understand the value of play in the health of their children, the entire front of the playground will be fenced with open screening for observation instead of the usual stone wall. The grounds will be equipped to provide active play interest for all ages. One section will be set aside for the use of little children. There will be a playing field for

competitive games and simple equipment for physical education.

A special recreation program also will be installed to coordinate with the Foundation's tuberculosis prevention work. The same group of pre-tuberculous school children who are receiving supplementary feedings, clinic care, and occasional rest in Camp Penteli, soon will have health-building play under the Foundation's supervision in the new playground.

Athletics

Competitive games are helping to create interracial friendships which augur well for a better understanding, and already have strengthened the position of the Armenian refugees in Syria.

Orphan athletic teams are a source of pride to their local communities. In Beirut they meet and match their strength with the skilled teams of Beirut University, the latter drawn from leading families of many races. Although the orphan athletes are working boys, and in many cases have no practice field, their good sportsmanship in victory or defeat has won many friends.

Athletics are part of the program of the Near East League, an organization of orphans which, under Foundation direction, is opening its privileges to all working boys and girls. The League has branches in Beirut, Aleppo, Zahle, Damascus, Rayak, Ghazir, Antilyas, Bikfaya, Alexandretta, Beit-Shebal, Jubeil and Rakka. Its active members now number 1,000 and 2,500 other graduates of orphanage schools are reached through its various activities.

The Foundation's recreation program in Syria is in the experienced hands of William M. Jessop, a veteran director of boys' work in America and overseas. He maintains supervision over the orphans, is developing the Near East League as an inter-racial activity and is working with local officials to establish a model athletic field in Beirut.

In Egypt, as in Syria, recreation serves to overcome inter-racial antagonisms. On the athletic fields maintained in connection with the Foundation's Welfare Centers in Cairo and Alexandria, many a racial barrier is amiably kicked out of bounds in the football games between native Egyptian and refugee Armenian boys.

Among 136 certificates recently awarded by the National Federation of Greece, 36 of the distinguished awards in this ancient home of athletes have gone to the orphan boys for whom Near East Foundation maintains playground and athletic activities. The boys have won their way up from starvation to physical fitness. One of them has been selected to enter the Balkan competitions next year as a representative of Greece. Most of these boys would have no chance for an education but for Near East Foundation schools.

Community Welfare

Recreation is proving a suc-

cessful stimulant to village interest in the development of the Foundation's Rural Life Program. Among people in isolated farm-villages, already devitalized by disease, idleness is the only alternative to physical labor. When work slackens there is nothing else to do but drowse against a sun-baked wall. Village life stagnates. Minds are dulled.

To re-create apathetic village life, methods and equipment recommended by the National Recreation Association are being used. Night classes are organized for the illiterate. Village libraries, or reading rooms, improvised with a few books, magazines and pictures, are hailed with joy. Simple games, an occasional informal talk on a local subject, a program of folk music, or stereopticon pictures, any of these can stir a village out of chronic lethargy. In several villages creditable orchestras are the result of musical instruments given to talented children. A soccer-football is the pride of the younger men while others find equal satisfaction in less strenuous games.

Obviously such a program easily can be carried on by the villagers themselves, once the impetus is given. Equipment is very simple and costs little. Leadership soon develops through activity. The American-trained young people who live among the farmers are quick to grasp and promote the idea.

Under the Rural Life Program in Macedonia a community reading room, the first in all Greece, was recently opened in Kyrghia, a village of 600 people, all families of hard working farmers. The Village Cooperative Society made contributions of rent and furniture equivalent to half the cost. The village mail carrier, who brings in the mail from the railroad station, twelve miles distant, acts as supervisor.

Health Through Play

Better health for all is being sought through recreation by the Foundation's health director among the refugee farm villages in Syria. On the theory that one is never too young to learn, Miss A. E. Slack is starting with the infant in the cradle and persuading mothers to unwind the tradi-

(Continued on page 468)



Play has helped to restore his heritage of happiness.

Friendships International

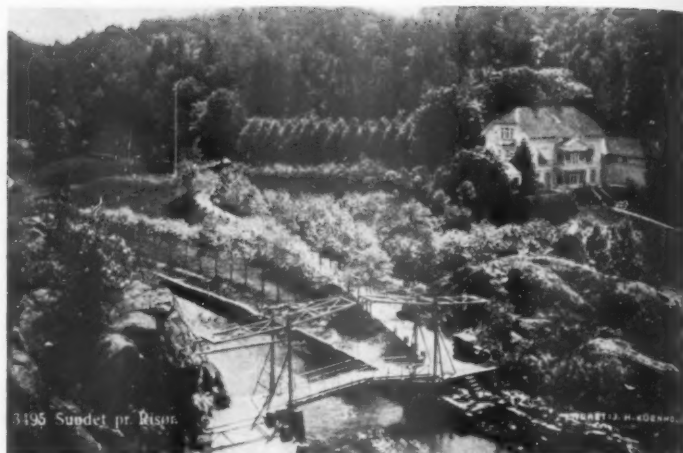
By Dorothy Reed
Camp Councillor

Important steps toward international understanding are taken in a camp where girls from five lands play together.

REVERILLE blew in Camp Viking and sixty girls from five nations started another camp day together. A dip in the cold North Sea, and then as the flag reached the top of the staff, America, Australia, Canada, Germany and Norway saluted with song the Norwegian colors.

On a fjord in the hills just west of Risr, a fishing village on the southwest coast of Norway, there is a beautiful old estate, now the first international summer camp for girls in the world, and the first of all girls' camps in the north of Europe. Two young women of Norway took the American camp idea back with them to their own country after learning to know American camps and camping, and foresaw an opportunity in a new field. Near the manor house, an old great white house of big rooms and old tiled stoves and furnishings of years ago, are smaller houses of brown stained wood—Peisestua, the fireplace cottage; Dueslage, the pigeon house; Selstua, the sun house; Skogstua, the hill or woods house. And where formal guests were once entertained, new international friendships are fostered and an understanding of customs and viewpoints is building the

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In these beautiful surroundings good will among nations is being built up.

foundation for international relations.

Swimming was the favorite activity. When the chill North Sea was too wind-whipped or when a certain tide brought an unusual host of the great red-brown jellyfish to the bathing house, the fjord on the west, crystal clear between its high cliff walls, was quite as fine a swimming pool with diving stands on rocky ledges of the cliff. Because of the barrier of language, the American sports councillor was forced to teach in sign language and with a mixture of Norwegian and German, punctuated with more familiar English!

American baseball, quite unknown to these girls, was taught by the same mixture of language, but when once mastered it was quite the most popular of the land sports. Baseball terms were never quite American as spoken by these girls—they "beat" the ball with the "stick," and all the basemen were "fieldermen," and an inning was a "play." Each group taught its favorite games to the other campers, and on rainy days the Turn Halle resounded with the rhythm of old folk dances and folk games. Saturday nights, stunt nights, brought forth the legends, the customs and the fun of the national groups.

Camping a New Venture

Camping is a new venture for girls of northern Europe and Scandinavia,

So successful was the first season of the Viking Camp that plans have been made for two additional camps, one in England and another in Germany, to be opened in the summer of 1932 when the Viking Camp of Norway will again be conducted.

and activities that are such a part of American camp programs must grow very gradually. Camp fires were not introduced until August began to darken the skies before taps, for it was broad daylight until eleven o'clock the first weeks of camp and the ten o'clock sunset held far more charm than snapping juniper sparks before dusk. Camp songs were in the three languages and one was never sung without the other two immediately following. The German girls had a wealth of folk music and wander songs, and many an hour was spent with guitar, mouth organ and accordion accompanying the part singing as these girls taught their songs of wood and mountain to the other campers. The Norwegian girls also sang many of the folk songs of the north, and the American campers felt keenly the lack of folk music, and particularly of "wander songs," in their own land.

"Tripping" was a very new adventure and each wander group that left camp was sent off with farewells that might well have been accorded the venturing pioneers; their return was hailed with cheers and a welcome due the Arctic explorers. Dressed in overalls of gayest colors, each girl with her own bulging ruck sack, a group started out every week to wander through the woods and along the fjords and the sea, not by the road, but following the compass over trails and rocks. The

country people were much interested to learn of the new camp and there was always a welcome, fresh milk, the offer of a hayloft for the night's lodging, a "lift" in a village bus, a farm wagon or a fisherman's boat, and pay enough were the tales and songs of camp life.

As camp days were ended and the campers turned toward home and school days, the doors of the big house did not shut but remained open to welcome the girls of the international winter school. From September to the Christmas holidays, the girls of the nations study together and in the biting air of the north lands they ski and go skating together. On cold nights by the fire, the music and legends of the nations are shared. Following the holidays they travel south together to live in a pension in Nice and continue their studies and play, and to "trip" into the Alps until school days again give way to camp days.

The friendships that grow out of the weeks together despite the barrier of languages, the understanding and exchange of customs and standards, working and playing together, are the first steps toward international understanding and, in the language of camp song:

Jo mere vi ja sammen, ja sammen, ja sammen,
Jo mere sympati!

(The more we are together, the happier we will be.)

Recreation in Norway

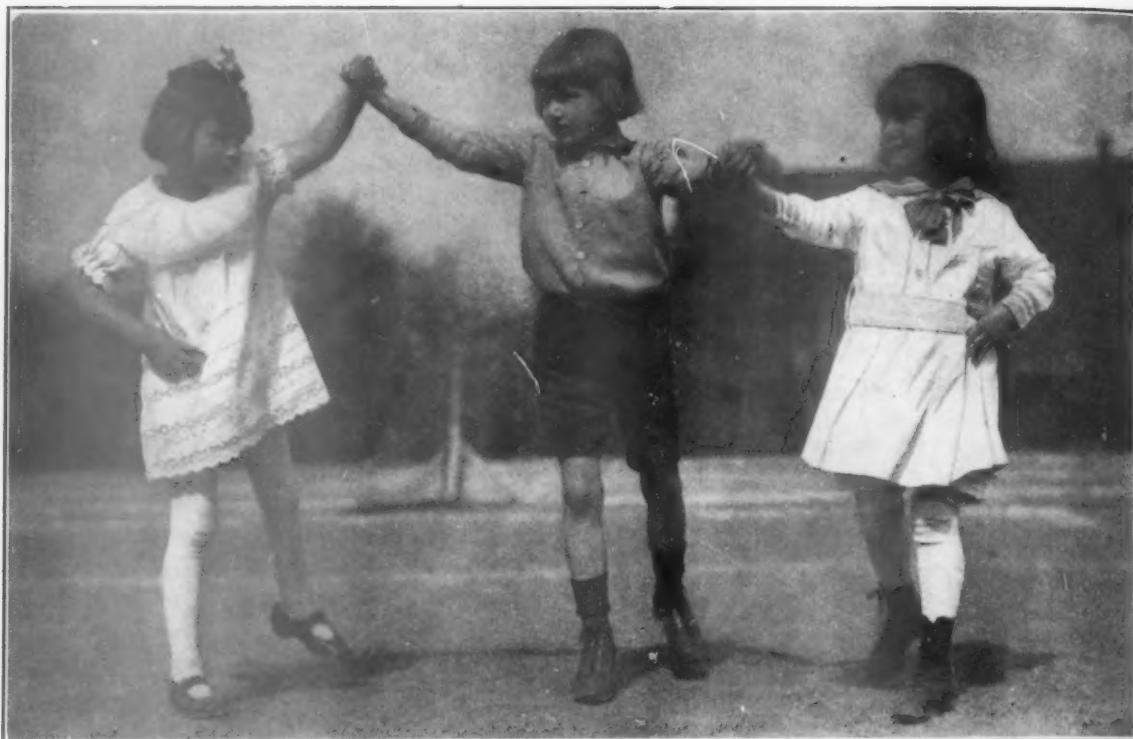
NATURE has been generous in her gifts of rugged beauty in Norway, but because of this very ruggedness the life of the Norwegian folk, with the exception, perhaps, of Oslo and Bergen, is not a life of luxury and comforts. The Norwegians are a hardy people, resourceful, courageous, persistent in their efforts to wrest from the rocky land and the sea a suitable living, still bound by tradition and ancestral custom to a great extent, simple in their enjoyments and appreciative of nature.

Public recreation as such is not organized to any extent. Parks and bathing beaches are maintained in Oslo and Bergen but open fields, natural beaches and winter playgrounds are, on the whole, maintained by clubs and organizations of which there are a countless number. Standing in a railway station on a Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning, one realizes the love of the mountains these northern folk have, for all local

trains into the mountains are crowded with hikers, if it be summer, with heavy packs and stocks, or with skiers after the snows have opened the ski runs on the mountain sides. There is a keen love of yachting and all the harbors of all the coast towns are white with sails on week-end holidays. Every minute of the long summer evenings is used to advantage by the Norwegian. The ten o'clock sunsets give a long evening for play in contrast to the darkness that settles by three in the afternoon in the winter. The thorough enjoyment of play is evident among all the groups.

In many communities the folk music and dances are still a very natural activity in community recreation. On festival days or in the long winter evenings it is not uncommon to find groups of young and old, many in costume, singing and dancing the traditional songs and dances of old Norway, thus helping materially to preserve the solidarity of the country.

Playing Fields for Belgian Children



Folk dancing—one activity common to the playground program of all lands.

Belgium's playing fields are on the increase, and recreation is coming into its own.

IN 1874 games were officially introduced into the program of the schools of Belgium. In 1883 special courses for men and women school teachers were organized by the government during the vacation period. Through the influence of a Congress of Physical Education through conferences, demonstrations, newspaper articles, teachers' conferences and other means, a number of city administrations set aside play spaces in boulevards, public parks, and in connection with schools, and made them available for children and adults. The systematic organization of playing fields in Belgium, however, has been a more recent development.

In 1903 the City of Brussels

rented for its normal school for men a field belonging to a sporting club, and in 1905 the Superior School of Physical Education of Brussels equipped a field in Linthout and gave instruction to teachers and students.

In 1909 the Minister of Public Works took over a field at Parc du Cinquantenaire. A year later he established another playground called the LeMarinel. It was through the efforts of the Superior School of Physical Education in Brussels that this field was equipped with apparatus, dressing rooms, shower baths, and tennis courts. At about the same time the Stuyvenberg field was established at Antwerp.

The Director General of the Red Cross in Belgium submits a statement of the development of the recreation movement in that country. The material has been translated by Louis C. Schroeder of the staff of the National Recreation Association.

The greatest development has come since the war. In 1920 the American Junior Red Cross offered to establish playgrounds in congested areas. The cities of Charleroi, La Louviere, and Brussels were the first to place fields at the disposal of the Red Cross.

At Charleroi, in 1921, the public park of Garenne was converted into a playing field. For the first few years the cost of administration was met by Red Cross funds, but in 1924 the organization was taken over by the city and financed by it. About 4,000 children use the playground each month.

A large playing field was equipped at La Louviere in 1922 by the American Red Cross. The Red Cross of Belgium administered this playground until 1924 when it was taken over by the city. The building on the playground has a central heating system and boasts of an Orthopedic Department which developed greatly during the summer of 1930.

In 1922 at Brussels the Quai aux Foines was installed as a playground by the American Junior Red Cross, and this section has become the city playground for Brussels. A number of the leaders, however, are appointed by the Belgian Red Cross. The playground is directed by a competent personnel which gives unsparingly of its time and energy. It has complete equipment for children from three to fourteen years of age and conducts a year round program. During rainy and extremely cold days the program is carried on indoors. The playground is in charge of a woman assisted by several young women teachers who have been specially trained by the Red Cross.

In 1923 the American Red Cross requested the Belgian Red Cross to take over the work. This was done and the Belgian Red Cross has continued the annual training courses for playground workers instituted by the American Junior Red Cross during the summer vacation. Upon completion of this course the candidates are assigned to practical duties on existing playgrounds. At the time of the Easter vacation, theoretical and



That a boy, plus a ball, equals play, is as true in Belgium as in other countries!

practical courses are held for a week and diplomas are awarded. The program consists of theory and practice of team and group games, folk dances, and physical activities. Courses are given in anatomy and physiology, child psychology, pedagogy, games, the organization of playgrounds, and first aid to the injured. In addition to the regular diplomas, pupils are given a diploma stating they are capable of administering first aid.

In 1924 a playground was organized at Liege by Mr. Babe. In 1926 this was closed and a new one was opened at a much larger field at St. Gilles. The City of

Liege supports this work and takes care of the children during the vacation period.

The Brussels Academy of Domestic Science has placed at the disposal of the elementary school children its vast field consisting of several acres at Vleesembeek. All these fields are proving of great value to the children. Most of them today contain baseball and net ball fields and playground apparatus, such as swings and see-saws. Some of them have football fields. Shower baths are free to the children.

The year 1930 saw two new playgrounds established under the auspices of the Belgian Red Cross. The one at the International Exposition at Antwerp proved a great success. This play area for children, established for a temporary period, will no doubt become a permanent field administered by the municipal government of Antwerp. The second playground has been established in the open air school at Laeken, near Brussels. It is used by children during leaves of absence and at vacation time. The La Vieille-Belgique (Old Belgium) Committee of the International Exposition at Antwerp has turned this.

(Continued on page 468)

Recreation for the Children of Paris



THERE are many little squares or gardens open to the public in Paris, where mothers can take their children. There is, however, no leadership nor is there space definitely set aside for play. Recently sand boxes have been placed in a few of the squares.

In planning for her children Paris has welcomed the opportunity to profit by America's experience in training leaders.



Apparatus new to French children is being devised.

In each district one of the school yards is kept open on Thursdays (France's school holiday) and used as a playground under the leadership of one or two teachers paid by the school board. There is no apparatus of any kind in the school yards. A few Catholic centers and schools are also

open on Thursdays to any Catholic children for play, handcraft and singing under leadership.

Mrs. Daniel Stern of California has given a million francs for playgrounds for small children. One is now open and five or six more will be available next spring. The so-called "Square d'enfants" is small but very safe—a few trees and benches, a sand box, an artificial brook and several small see-saws, all enclosed. Only children under six are admitted. Two nurses are in charge. The grounds are open from eight o'clock to five, and the children go home for their meals. In the winter and on rainy days they play in a closed shelter at one end of the square. These "Squares d'enfants" are for the most part in congested districts. Two or three settlements or social centers have playgrounds of their own with some apparatus, but only one, the "Toute l'Enfance en Plein air," is used as are the playgrounds of America.

The Boy Scout and the Girl Scout movements have developed rapidly in the past few years and these organizations furnish the only recreation for many little Parisians. There are 2,000 *louveteaux* boys under 11 years of age, about 3,000 Boy Scouts and the same number of Girl Scouts. They meet once a week, go on picnics two or three times each month, and enjoy a few days of camping in the summer.

"Toute l'Enfance en Plein air" (All the Chil-

dren in the Open) is a large health center organized in 1920 on the fortifications of Paris between Porte Clichy and Porte St. Ouen. The city gave the grounds, and barracks were put on them for clinics; a little later a kindergarten and day nursery was added. Then the American Junior Red Cross gave some playground equipment to the center and Miss Ruth Findlay organized the Recreation Department. In 1922 the methods of physical education changed greatly in France. Doctors ordered sun baths, breathing exercises, so the center had a large physical

education department as well as a playground program for children from 3 to 14 years of age. Miss Findlay held a six weeks institute for playground workers in 1921, and from that time on the material she gave has been used. School teachers and school nurses interested in the work came to be trained and receive all of the material available.

"Toute l'Enfance en Plein air" has the only large organized playground in Paris. The directress and founder is a very unusually gifted woman. This year she saw the need of new material and new ideas for the Recreation Department, so an institute was arranged in July for workers, and in August an American program was introduced on the playground. Renée Tétart, a graduate of the National Recreation School, was in charge of the institute and later of the playground. The results were better than were anticipated. Several tournaments and contests were held, many handcraft projects carried out and a group of boys trained in Indian customs and all of the girls in folk dancing. The directress



Certain forms of athletic activities are popular. Running 40 meter races is a sport with a thrill!

has made the statement that there was an order about the place never known before and that the children had a wonderful time. An improvement in sportsmanship was quite evident.

A good example of this is the case of Robert, a young boy, one of the poorest losers on the playground. When the marble tournament was held he happened to be in the finals for the championship with André. He lost, and everyone thought the worst would happen. Instead, Robert shook hands with the champion and ran to the other side of the playground shouting: "André is the winner. Come quick to applaud him."

A great event was the introduction of the slide, hitherto unknown to French children, made by a carpenter according to directions given in *Play Areas*, published by the National Recreation Association. A balance beam and bar were made by all, and a climbing apparatus adapted from the junglegym is now being made.

About 250 children come daily to the center from eight in the morning until seven at night. The great need is for trained leadership to keep pace with the extension of the movement.



The land is gay with beautiful flowers. Working men in particular find much joy in gardening.

Everywhere in the Czechoslovak mountains vacation accommodations are provided.

Recreation in Czechoslovakia

By Ing. E. S. Hokes

Masaryk Institute for Adult Education

RECREATION was first carried on in Czechoslovakia by the great gymnastic institutions of Sokols and Labor Gymnasts. Others followed and today these organizations alone have more than 700,000 members—girls, boys and adults of both sexes. Activities at first consisted of light athletics and exercises, but later water sports and winter sports were added.



Our rivers offer wonderful opportunity for recreation, and every Sunday young and old go to these streams and spend their week-ends camping. Especially among the working class is this week-end camping popular. In Prague alone during the summer over 60,000 people spend their week-ends in tents and huts in the country.

With its rich background of history, its castles hundreds of years old, its beautiful mountains and lakes, Czechoslovakia has a lure for tourists. The Tourists' League and similar organizations have arranged for attractive huts offering overnight accommodations for tourists in the mountains and for restaurants where food may be secured at moderate prices. Organizations throughout the country are now maintaining over 120 camping places and each year new ones are created. Much is being done through Boy Scouts and workers' organizations which arrange camping trips for men and women. From 60,000 to 80,000 people spend two weeks vacation during the spring and summer at these camps. The Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. are also doing a very important work for young people.

The land reform movement is playing an important part in furthering general welfare by making it possible for the social organizations to secure at little expense forests and building sites.

With the restoration of the land to the people, much of it was given to small farmers. Beautiful castles are being used as museums and rest houses for the needs of the sick and convalescent. Some of them have been restored to the families of the original owners.

The freedom resulting from the land reform has given the country an opportunity to expand along recreational lines and to provide organizations to further the movement. Much progress has also been made through social insurance to which employer and employee contribute in equal amounts. Some of the funds raised through this insurance is used to create institutions for social service and recreation. Near Prague a large town housing about 3,000 people has been built for the aged. Here libraries, recreation centers, moving pictures, swimming pools and similar facilities are provided.

The gardening movement is very strong in Czechoslovakia. Around the towns small colonies of gardeners have been gathered.

Formerly little was done for women and girls. Now there are recreation houses for women and opportunity for social recreation. Large houses have been erected for students and much is being done to encourage the girls of the country to continue their education.

There are over 60,000 skiers in Czechoslovakia. Huts have been erected for their use.



Winter sports are popular with young and old. Through the efforts of tourists' organizations and ski clubs, a network of huts, large and small, has been created at winter sports centers, routes have been mapped out, and the state has made arrangements whereby winter sports enthusiasts may travel to sports centers at prices 30 per cent. less than the usual cost. The railroads are going still further and are organizing inexpensive trips to these sports centers which include board and lodging.

It is our hope that there will be incorporated in a law, now being prepared, the provision that every community must set aside space for play for children and adults. Another objective is that near every community a space shall be reserved for camping.

Through a public library law passed in 1919, provision was made for a library in every community with a certain sum set aside for the purchase of new books. Thus we have attained the provision for reading as a leisure time pursuit.

A central federation of all recreational groups has been secured in the Masaryk Institute for

Adult Education, which founded in 1906, plays a large part in the cultural development of the country and in federating and extending cultural associations. It is the central advisory source for educational institutions. It assists libraries, organizes lectures and musical activities, and arranges traveling art exhibits. The Institute has done much to develop puppetry, believing that doll theatres are an important education medium. The Institute is also interested in seeing that the best films are shown and it organizes educational exhibits for the entire Republic at which are shown the results of activities throughout the state.

Our far-away country is working toward ideals similar to your own. This is important for more free time will soon be liberated. We have an obligatory eight-hour working day, but some industrial plants have inaugurated the five day week and others will follow. Our position in the center of Europe puts us in quick contact with the entire world and enables us to apply all that is new in social discovery to our own progress and welfare.

Camping in Hellas

AT the foot of Mount Pelion and the narrow vale between the hills known as the birthplace of Achilles, and on the shore of the blue Aegean Sea, is the wonderful location of the National Y. M. C. A. Boys' Camp of Greece. No other camp in the world can boast of a more romantic setting or one more full of tradition than Camp Pelion.

The camp is sufficiently inaccessible to give it the proper camping atmosphere. Neighboring villages and hamlets are all stiff mountain climbs away. Only very steep and narrow donkey trails connect the camp with these mountain villages. Boats come to these rugged shores only by special arrangement to bring and take the campers. Otherwise the camp is undisturbed by contact with the outside world save by the visits of fishing craft or muleteers bringing supplies. Pelion is the fruit growing section of Greece and the camp is close to the best source of supplies for vegetables and fruit in all the country. A perfect climate, wide spreading old plane trees, silvery olive orchards, sparkling spring water, wide open spaces for playgrounds and a sheltered bath-

ing beach, all contribute to make this camp site more than ideal.

The camp aims to develop all that is best in Greek character—racial pride, ambition to achieve a perfect mind in a perfect body, and a desire to regain the place in modern civilization that they held in their Golden Age.

Pelion is a musical camp and everything is done to help the boy who is studying a stringed instrument to keep up his practice while in camp. Camp concerts are frequent. The camp also fosters the love of ancient Greek folk lore and customs and each summer the boys prepare a festival based on the festivals of ancient Greece consisting of dances, games and dramatic events. The modern Greek boys possess a great fund of originality and artistry in this sort of thing.

In a word, the best that modern civilization can offer in methods of camping and character building is taken to supplement only, the use of those ancient ideals and methods by which the Greeks reached the pinnacle of perfection of mind and body, and which their descendants today are emulating to regain the "Glory that was Greece."—*From L. W. Riess.*

The Argentinians at Play

By Weaver Pangburn
National Recreation Association

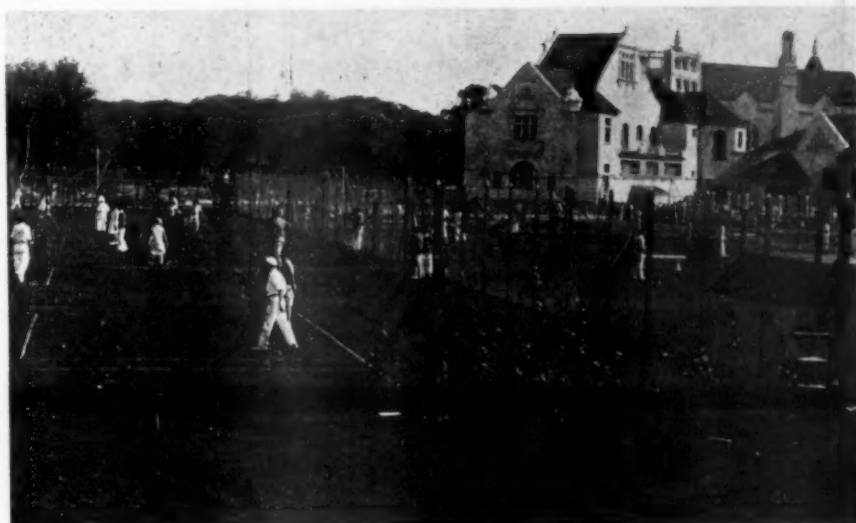
A country where athletics and sports are held in high esteem.

HOW would you like to belong to an athletic club, palatial in its appointments and equipped for every type of recreation and sport with an initiation fee of only \$8.15 and annual dues of \$20?

You are correct—there is no such club in the United States, but it *does* exist in the good city of Buenos Aires, capital of the Argentine. How do the Argentinians do it? Simply by making their club almost a community institution. They have 20,000 members in that club!

Known as the Gym and Fencing Club, this famous institution is fifty years old. It has three buildings at strategic points in the city and a huge acreage of playing fields for soccer, rugby, hockey, tennis, basketball, children's play and other activities. To give examples of the play space provided, there are twenty tennis courts, seven basketball courts, and ten fields for soccer and rugby. Two outdoor swimming pools and a roller skating rink are part of the equipment.

Indoor facilities include a large gymnasium, one of the best equipped medical offices in South America, electric reducing apparatus, and five courts for *pelota* and *sare*, Spanish games. These games resemble handball, but



The Club has long played a leading part in the recreational life of Buenos Aires.

the courts are about four times as large.

The club admits persons of all ages and both sexes. Consequently many of its activities are family affairs.

Municipal Recreation

Although great clubs like the Gym and Fencing Club are a characteristic phase of organized recreation in the Argentine, they are not by any means the whole story. Buenos Aires has in its beautiful parks many municipal playgrounds open

the year-round under leadership. Apparatus play, games, track and field competitions and handcraft are common activities in the playground program.

Eduardo J. De Grossi, Argentine soccer and track star, now studying recreation and physical education in the United States, gives the facts presented in this article.

(Continued on page 462)

TENNIS NETS

- also -

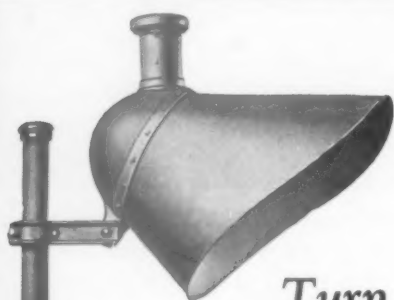
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gram. There is much current interest in Buenos Aires in acquiring municipal swimming pools. Five are now under construction. The present enthusiasm for swimming is due to the success, at the Olympic Games in Amsterdam, of Mr. Alberto Zorrilla who won championship swimming honors. Outdoor swimming is possible seven months in the year. Consequently the municipal bathing beaches of the city, which are extensive, are extremely popular. Many families are to be seen there picnicking and enjoying the bathing. Municipal band concerts are a regular feature of the park program.

Little theatre groups and amateur orchestras are to be found chiefly in private schools. As to opera, it is, of course, well known that in this field the capitals of the South American republics equal, if they do not excel, New York and other cities in the United States.

While golf is popular in Buenos Aires, there are no municipal courses. Another contrast with the United States is that physical education has not been developed in the public schools.

Organized Sports

For many years intercollege and interstate championship contests have been held in a number of sports. Every year national championships are sponsored in Argentina in the major games, and in soccer, tennis, track and field there are South American championship contests. Last year the tenth such continental event was held. Uruguay won the soccer championship. A team from the United States lost to the Argentine in the semi-finals. For nine out of the last ten years Argentina has won the South American tennis championships. Soccer easily stands first as the most popular sport in the Argentine. Second place is held by boxing. Baseball stands near the bottom of the list.

In the Argentine there are 100 soccer teams in the first division alone. Track and field championships are organized under municipal auspices, as well as boxing, swimming, wrestling and weight lifting. Women and girls participate in track and field events, swimming, rowing, basketball and tennis. The competitions are carefully graded according to age groupings. These competitions of the Argentine draw huge crowds and the championship contests are followed with the same rabid enthusiasm that college football and professional baseball excite in this country.

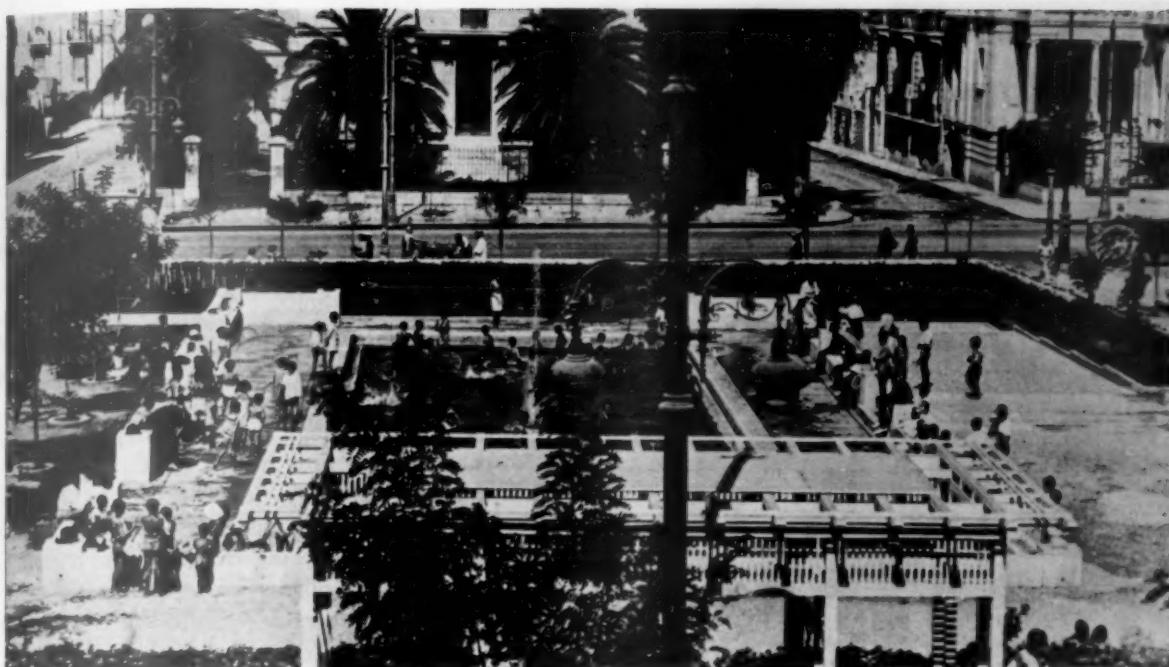


Photo by Nomlas

The majority of the playgrounds of Athens were once unsightly dumps.

World at Play

Athens Initiates the Playground Movement

SINCE 1912 the little country of Greece has had heavy burdens to carry. She has passed through four wars with the resultant financial drain, and in addition has been called upon to shelter 1,500,000 refugees. Greece has, however, shown her indomitable spirit by permitting none of these obstacles to prevent her from putting her house in order and proceeding with civic and recreational developments.

The first children's playgrounds to be opened in Greece have been constructed in Athens. These four playgrounds, built by the municipality, are but a start in the program which is under way. Projects are being developed to provide the youth of Greece with 106 new play centers which will be combinations of playgrounds and athletic fields. These playgrounds, which are being fostered by the Ministry of Education, will be scattered throughout Greece on the mainland as well as on the numerous islands which form the interesting Greek archipelago. On some of these mountainous islands the terrain is so uneven and so precipitous that the construction of playgrounds will require the expenditure of large sums. But they will represent a fascinating piece of pioneering work and a memorial to the courage and foresight of the country of Greece.

Spare Time in Italy

A report of the Italian National Institute for Workers' Spare Time for the past five years shows that at the end of 1930 the number of affiliated associations was 14,427 with a total membership of 1,622,140. During 1930 the Institute organized 525,117 events, including sports meetings, excursions, entertainments, amateur theatrical performances, social hygiene, lectures and exhibitions, and lectures on vocational subjects, general culture and folk lore. The aggregate attendance at the principal sports meetings organized by the Institute was 6,000,000.

Play Space in England

Unused for more than a century, comes a report from England, the old burying ground at Twickenham, England, will be turned into a recreation park. Small houses now surround the ground and the space is needed for play.

Salford, a town adjoining Manchester, has closed ninety-two of its streets to motor traffic so that the children may have a safe place to play.

The Olympic Games

The July-August issue of *Olympic News*, published by the American Olympic Association, 233 Broadway,

for Winter, too— **"CHICAGO"**
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New York City, contains the program of events scheduled for the tenth Olympiad of Los Angeles, California, July 30th to August 14th, 1932, and gives information regarding the plans.

Physical Education and Recreation in Poland.—Physical education in Poland has made rapid strides since the establishment in 1927 of a Governmental Board for Physical Education. In every school three hours a week are set aside for gymnastics and one afternoon for games and sports. During the winter the boys and girls have ice skating, sliding and skiing; in summer periods, swimming and rowing. Each gymnastic lesson is brought to a close with games. The chief need of the program is for the training of teachers, instructors and coaches, and the training of such leaders for clubs is being carried on at fourteen centers. Teachers of physical education are being trained in two universities and in the Central Institute of Physical Education, the largest building of its kind in Europe, which trains both men and women.

The Department of Culture and Education is promoting drama and music throughout Poland. All through the country there are numerous clubs and associations for sports and physical education, the most popular sport being football. During the past three years the number of players in basketball, volley ball, hazena and other games, has increased rapidly. All kinds of sports are provided for tourists.

Cizek Christmas Postal Cards.—The Austrian Junior Red Cross has issued a new set of Christmas cards made by children of ten to fourteen years of age who are pupils of the juvenile art class of Professor Cizek in Vienna. The series, ten in number, may be secured from the Austrian Junior Red Cross, 1 Stubenring, Vienna I., Austria. Price 27 cents, postage included. Payment may be made by international postal money orders, or by local checks.

Developments in Turkey

(Continued from page 430)

and will be for all ages. It is located in a densely populated section of the city where there are over 5,000 children, according to school records. Here will be a sport field in addition to the regular playground apparatus.

The fourth playground will be a kindergarten playground in the residential section of the city.

We expect this to be constructed during the next year. These four will complete the playground system of Angora. After that we shall be able to answer the calls that are continually coming to us from other cities throughout the nation. The deputies of the National Assembly are observing the experiments here in Angora and are spreading the gospel of playgrounds and recreation in their home localities.

Within the next year the first day nursery will be built adjacent to the Fuat Bey playground, and arrangements are being made to use the playground for a part of the nursery program. A National School of Social Work is to be established in Angora this spring. One of the biggest courses to be offered will be that in playgrounds and public recreation. The immediate need is to train adequate leadership for the present and soon to be opened playgrounds.

The American advisors have been invited into several schools to assist in the establishment of recreational programs. These are developing and spreading considerably.

The beginnings of the playground movement herein described have not taken into consideration the field of adult education. So many other phases seemed so much more important and since the Ministry of Education covers this field, it has been postponed as a future possibility of the playground movement.

The Ministry of Education and the National Educational Society, working closely with the Ministry, have provided well for adult education. All school teachers are under contract with the Ministry and must contribute a certain number of hours a week to teaching in night schools for adults. By law it is necessary for all adults who cannot read or write to attend these schools. The adoption of new characters for the Turkish language a few years ago has made this necessary.

The Black Folk of South Africa

(Continued from page 435)

attempting something along social lines with a totally inadequate building. Moving picture films obtained from the Johannesburg Bantu Men's Social Center are exhibited in sixty points such as Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Pretoria, Graaff Reinet, in the sugar mills in Natal, in hospitals, prisons, leper institutions, municipal locations, in the gold, copper and coal mines in the Rhodesias, in native teacher training and high schools

throughout the land. Durban has appointed a European native welfare officer to promote the welfare of the native population along recreational lines.

A promising field of endeavor is that subsidized by the Carnegie Foundation of America, namely, the holding of annual Jeanes Schools for native teachers. At these conferences, or winter schools, courses are given by experienced lecturers on community service and recreation, and daily demonstrations are provided. Hundreds of native teachers have carried back into their country schools inspiration and information from these courses.

Reverend O. E. Lovell of Durban, Superintendent of the American Board Mission Schools, has just initiated the Bantu Community League to head up various projects of a school and community nature in the rural areas. Just what form this league will take in different communities will depend on plants available, quality of leadership, and economic condition of the people.

Through these various channels an effort is being made to meet the tremendous need of the South African Bantu for guidance in leisure time

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activities. American and British missionaries are taking an increasingly active share in this work. Business and mining men, as well as municipal authorities, are taking a leading part in the provision of more adequate facilities for black workers and their families. South Africa is falling into step with the rest of the world in this provision of wholesome recreation for the masses of its people.

Children of Hungary at Play

(Continued from page 439)

have less than 1,000, two or more may combine and form one society.

The program of physical education in the

schools includes all varieties of sports. Over fourteen handbooks are published by the Central Committee, designed as guides for the teachers. The physical work is divided into age groups so that there is no strain on the children. Every school has a gymnasium and nearly all have small playgrounds attached to the schools. While the playgrounds have little equipment, every opportunity is given for participation in circle games and competitive and non-equipment games. No school pupil is permitted to join an outside organization, such as a club, unless he has special permission and is over eighteen years old. Those under this age cannot join even a Y. M. C. A., some of the local authorities maintaining that with the school societies and Scout troops there is enough to keep a boy busy without membership in other organizations. Every school has its own athletic association and there is an interscholastic organization under the guidance of the National Board of Education.

As a feature of the physical program in Hungary every school must have a Scout troop. The Scouts of this nation—and there are over 30,000 members—are a well trained group and take great pride in their work. They have a permanent camp

Please mention RECREATION when writing advertisers

near Budapest and in the summer the different troops have their own camps. There is also a naval Scout camp. The boys have their own central headquarters—very attractive Scout rooms—publish their own magazine, and every year more than 9,000 take part in the Jamboree.

During the vacation period in the summer months the boys are not compelled to take gymnastics but they are asked to continue healthful exercises and recreation by attending Scout camps and going into the hills to take part in the outdoor activities. The record of the Hungarians in all phases of athletics proves that this is an excellent means of keeping the boys fit.

The Playground Situation

There are few playgrounds in Hungary. Being a poor nation which lost 71 per cent of its land and 63 per cent of its people after the Treaty of Trianon, they cannot do much. Throughout the land, however, there are some public playgrounds with sand pits, wading pools, and swimming pools. There is a playground in Budapest which is particularly beautiful. It is terraced and has three sections with a beautiful outlook and contains full equipment such as swings, sand pits, wading pools, and shelters. Plans are under way for more fully equipped playgrounds throughout the country.

The educational leaders of Hungary are forward-looking people, and only the financial situation keeps them from developing more playgrounds. The beautiful parks provide places for the children to roam and romp and in one of the main thoroughfares of busy Budapest space is roped off for the children to promenade and play.

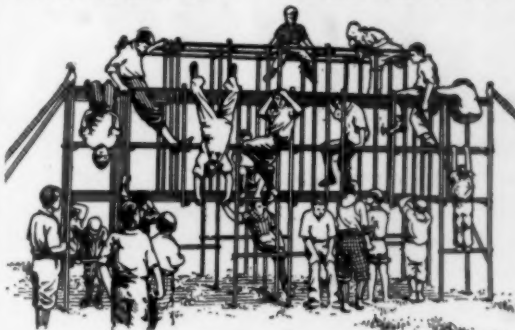
The Hungarian people are a sport-loving race. Budapest is one of the best equipped cities of the world for outdoor recreational activities with three remarkably fine swimming pools—St. Gellert, Szchenyi, and an important new one, all with sulphur water, radioactive, and with numerous sport fields headed by the St. Margaret's play isle, one can find every kind of recreational facilities. Hungary is a land of charm with a people who are deeply conscious that the welfare of their children lies in the provision of public parks, playgrounds and recreation activities.

Los Angeles Host to the Congress

(Continued from page 444)

tion minded" by their fortunate situation in one of the great natural playground sections of the world, have developed in their system of public

Licensed under Patents of October 23, 1923, March 25, 1924 "Jungle-gym" Trade Mark Registered United States Patent Office



This No. 2 Jungle-gym capable of handling 75 children.

HOW PLAYGROUND PROBLEMS ARE BEING PERMANENTLY SOLVED —WITH— JUNGLEGYM

Children are not like older persons. They instinctively like or dislike a thing and no amount of words can convince them otherwise.

That is one reason why the Jungle-gym has proven so successful in playgrounds. It appeals to the deep-rooted instincts of children to climb and play in groups. They never seem to tire of playing on it, because all sorts of games can be discovered or made up on the instant. A splendid exerciser, both physically and mentally.

But there are other features equally as important. Having, as it does, graduated bars always near at hand it is absolutely safe and requires no supervision. Permanently made of metal and compactly built to economize on space.

A. G. Spalding & Bros.

Playground Department
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play an outstanding example of what public organizations may accomplish in the provision of that healthful and wholesome use of leisure time so essential to the well being of a modern community.

The fact that the International Recreation Congress of 1932 will occur in Los Angeles just prior to and in connection with the Tenth Olympic Games is a fortunate coincidence for those who will attend this International meeting. The Olympic Games will provide sixteen days and nights of competition between the great athletes of approximately 50 nations, beginning on Saturday, July 20, 1932, and ending on Sunday, August 14, 1932. This competition will include athletics (track and field), boxing, cycling, equestrian sports, fencing, field hockey, gymnastics, modern pentathlon, shooting, rowing, swimming, diving, water polo, weight lifting, wrestling, yachting, international demonstrations and fine arts.

World's championships in all of these events will be decided while the highest type of competition will bring forth the best that every nation has to offer. The Olympic Games will be closely linked in interest to the International Recreation Congress, supplementing the meeting of the world's play leaders for the consideration of international problems of play leadership, and illustrating many of the ideas to be discussed in the convention.

Thousands of visitors will be expected in Los Angeles for the events of the Olympic Games and numerous special festivities will take place in the city in conjunction with the Games. Those attending the International Recreation Congress will have full opportunity to enjoy all of these activities to the utmost and at the same time will be able to see Los Angeles and Southern California at its carefree, gala, holiday best.

Orphans and Athletics

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tional swaddling clothes and give young arms and legs the benefits of sun, air, exercise and a chance for normal growth. Village children are coaxed to the river's brim and in no time at all are brought to splashing joy and a new cleanliness. Little by little mothers have come, first to watch, then to take part, and now, according to the latest report, fathers are relaxing their dignity and joining in the new sport. The people had made no

attempt to use their rivers for bathing until the gentle insistence of the Foundation's nurse led the way.

Playing Fields for Belgium

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work over completely to the Red Cross of Belgium which is providing the program. Sessions are held three times a week.

Our playground service is often called upon to give advice and practical help to schools, vacation colonies for children, vacation homes, orphanages, and institutions of all kinds. The Junior Red Cross of Belgium never misses an opportunity to carry on propaganda for playgrounds. A number of cities, notably those around Liege, are studying projects which were begun by the Red Cross.

Most of the playgrounds recognized as such by the Red Cross of Belgium have clubs for children and for adolescents. Employed boys and girls come to the grounds during certain hours of the week or on Sunday mornings. They enjoy outdoor and indoor games and use the playgrounds as a starting place for excursions and trips.

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